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UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA

COMMEMORATION OF NAMIBIA DAY, 26 AUGUST 1989

Messages received by the President of the Council

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INTRODUCTION

1. On 25 August 1989, the United Nations Council for Namibia held a special meeting (its 532nd) to commemorate Namibia Day in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3111 (XXVIII) of 12 December 1973.

2. By that resolution, the General Assembly decided to observe 26 August of each year as Namibia Day. That decision was taken in order to mark the beginning, in 1966, of the Namibian liberation struggle and to draw the attention of the international community to the responsibility of the United Nations for the Territory of Namibia, as well as to the struggle of the Namibian people for self-determination, freedom and independence in a united Namibia. By its resolution 31/146 of 20 December 1976, the Assembly supported the legitimacy of the armed struggle being waged by the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) to achieve freedom and national independence in a united Namibia.

3. As in the past, the Council invited representatives of all States Members of the United Nations to attend the meetings, along with representatives of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, Namibian students, representatives of non-governmental organizations and members of the press.

4. The Council also invited Governments and organizations to send messages of solidarity with the people of Namibia in their struggle for freedom and independence.

5. During the solemn meetings, statements were made by the President of the Security Council, the Vice-President of the General Assembly, the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Acting President of the United Nations Council for Namibia, the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the representative of the Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the representative of the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity. Other statements were made by the Chairmen of the Groups of African States, Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and other States at the United Nations.

6. The President thanked the Governments and organizations that had sent messages of solidarity, as well as all the representatives who participated in the meeting, for their expressions of support for the people of Namibia.

7. The texts of the messages of solidarity are set out below.

MESSAGES RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

A. Heads of State or Government

1. H.E. Mr. Najibullah, President of the Republic of Afghanistan

[Original: English]

On behalf of the people and Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and on my own behalf, I have the pleasure to express our full support on the occasion of the observance of Namibia Day to the people of Namibia at a time when a world-wide campaign is under way for supporting the just struggle of the people of that Territory.

The position of the State of the Republic of Afghanistan in the past and at present continues to be based on supporting the just struggle of peoples for the attainment of their right to freedom, self-determination and independence. Particularly, our support to the just cause of the Namibian people is considered as a necessary and principal cause of the Republic of Afghanistan.

History reveals that the struggle waged by the Namibian people has witnessed numerous obstacles, victories and sacrifices for the attainment of their legitimate right to freedom, independence and statehood.

The heroic struggle of the people of Namibia reveals a concrete fact that the Namibians, like other dependent peoples, have demonstrated significant ability, strength, courage and initiative for the achievement of their just cause.

Pursuant to its humanitarian and peace-loving policy, the Republic of Afghanistan expresses its firm support for the ongoing process of peace and independence in Namibia and pledges to uphold its position based on demanding the unconditional implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia contained in Security Council resolution 435 (1978) without any change or modification.

We are of the firm conviction that the realization of the current process in Namibia will, on the one hand, give positive response to the legitimate right of the Namibian people to independence, progress and prosperity and, on the other, play a considerable role in ensuring peace and stability in the region.

The Republic of Afghanistan once again would like to give you, Excellency, the assurance of its all-round support to the just and lawful cause of the people of Namibia and is convinced that, under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization, the people of Namibia can achieve their legitimate and just goals.

2. H.E. Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, President of the Republic of Algeria

[Original: French]

Several weeks before the Namibian people regain their independence, it is particularly gratifying for me to see an African people putting an end to one of the last colonies of our time. It is certainly not an accident of history, but rather the continuation of the work of decolonization, which the international community and Africa in particular had pledged to complete.

Thanks indeed to the continuous efforts of peoples devoted to peace, freedom and justice, South Africa was induced to submit to the collective will by accepting Security Council resolution 435 (1978) on the independence of Namibia. It is therefore gratifying for us to celebrate together Namibia Day at a time when the possibility of fulfilling the aspirations of the Namibian people is finally coming about.

I see in this a sign of hope for restoring peace in that region for the greatest good of its peoples and I am delighted that Africa as a whole is about to triumph over the evil which was preying upon the southern region of our continent.

The Namibian people owe this forthcoming success first of all to their legitimate representative, the South West Africa People's Organization, whose commitment and determination have been equal to the aspirations which it has always sustained. My country pledged to guarantee the best possible conditions for achieving this success in accordance with the spirit and the letter of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), the implementation of which was set in motion by the Security Council. All along this difficult road, strewn with sacrifices and martyrs, the Namibian people were able to rely on the efforts of the international community and, in particular, the United Nations Council for Namibia, which was foremost among those who led us to this historic turning-point.

Nevertheless, our mission will not be accomplished as long as the Namibian people are not guaranteed the set of conditions necessary for them to express freely their will. It is the responsibility of the United Nations, whose Secretary-General has personally made commendable efforts, and particularly the Security Council to provide the Namibian people with the necessary means to do so. It is also, however, the duty of all of us to ensure full respect for international legality in order to carry out faithfully our commitments to the Namibian people.

We have an obligation to maintain solidarity also with the people of South Africa, whose daily suffering challenges our consciences as a reminder of the nature of apartheid and compels us to give our total support to the efforts by the African National Congress of South Africa to dismantle it, and to the front-line States, which are courageously confronting the destabilizing and aggressive acts carried out by South Africa.

3. H.E. Mr. Hussain Muhammad Ershad, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

[Original: English]

On 26 August each year, the international community commemorates Namibia Day. On this auspicious occasion, the Government and people of Bangladesh join me in reaffirming our unswerving support and solidarity with the people of Namibia in their struggle for emancipation and independence. We salute those valiant freedom fighters who have succeeded through their intense and sustained struggle under the dynamic leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization, in bringing Namibians to the threshold of achieving independence. We pay heartfelt tribute to those many known and unknown martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for this just cause.

We join the international community in demanding the full and immediate implementation of all relevant resolutions of the United Nations and, in particular, Security Council resolution 435 (1978), aimed at ensuring the independence of Namibia. We reiterate our call for the smooth progress of free and fair elections in Namibia in accordance with the United Nations plan. It is our firm expectation that the process now set in motion will effectively realize the hopes and aspirations of the people of Namibia for emergence into statehood.

Bangladesh's vital stake in, and commitment to, this process has been demonstrated by the presence of 25 military observers and a 60-member police-monitor contingent from Bangladesh as part of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group charged with supervising the peaceful transition of Namibia to independence. Our small contribution is testimony to our long cherished desire to welcome Namibia into our midst as a sovereign and independent member of the international community.

4. H.E. Mr. Li Peng, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China

[Original: Chinese]

On the occasion of Namibia Day, I have the honour, on behalf of the Government and people of China, to convey to the United Nations Council for Namibia our support for the great contribution which the Council has made under your chairmanship in mobilizing the international community to support the Namibian people's struggle for national independence.

Since its establishment, the Council has promoted the implementation of pertinent resolutions of the United Nations and supported the just struggle of the Namibian people for independence; it has made long and unremitting efforts and played a positive role, earning widespread approval from the international community.

Now the process of Namibian independence has entered a critical phase. The international community must urge the South African authorities to comply strictly with the relevant resolutions, and honour its commitments to ensure that, under the

effective supervision of the United Nations, Namibia holds free and fair elections and attains independence on schedule. We believe that the international community will continue to provide vigorous support and assistance to the Namibian people.

As in the past, the Chinese Government and people will continue energetically to support the just struggle of the Namibian people, firm in their belief that, backed by the people of every nation, the Namibian people, raising high the banner of independence and statehood, strong in solidarity and marching as one, are bound to achieve national independence and liberation.

5. H.E. Mr. Fidel Castro Ruz, President of Cuba

[Original: Spanish]

When, each year, they commemorate the date 26 August as Namibia Day, our people pay tribute, along with the entire international community, to the historic moment at which the emancipation struggle for the freedom of Namibia began in 1966.

In the course of these 23 years, the Namibian people have been called upon to make enormous and countless sacrifices in the face of foreign occupation and racist oppression, and equally great has been the concern and the expression of solidarity on the part of peoples with the self-sacrificing sons of Namibia.

Namibia Day this year takes on a unique significance, in that it is occurring at a time when, as never before, the end of the colonial occupation, the holding of free elections and the eagerly awaited proclamation of independence are coming in sight.

The implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) is already a reality, thanks to the self-sacrificing struggle of the best sons of Namibia and to the fact that, in the efforts to resolve this conflict, the will to negotiate and seek a peaceful solution satisfactory to all parties in one way or another involved in it has finally prevailed.

The conclusion of the negotiating process with respect to Namibia, as embodied in the tripartite agreements signed by Angola, Cuba and South Africa, and the possibility of initiating on the basis of it the process of decolonization of Namibia have laid the foundations not only for the independence of Namibia, but also for peace and stability in Angola and the rest of the front-line States.

The success achieved and the benefits about to be obtained must not, however, mislead the international community into believing that the final victory has been won, nor should they weaken our efforts to eliminate colonialism, neo-colonialism and racial and all other forms of discrimination; rather, they should constitute a new incentive to win the many battles that still remain to be waged against all the manifestations of oppression of the human being.

As has been made abundantly clear, the United Nations is under an obligation to guarantee that a democratic process takes place leading to free and fair

elections: in particular, the Security Council has a historic responsibility before it, and its actions cannot cease until the Namibian people have been able to attain their legitimate and full independence.

Accordingly, not only is there a need to ensure that the proper and normal discharge of the functions assigned to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group is not distorted, but also, as the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries is advocating, it is vital to ensure the immediate and total disbandment of the "Koevoet" squads, put an end to all intimidations and threats against the Namibian people, guarantee the safe and timely return of the refugees in exile, abrogate the discriminatory laws and regulations and ensure that the mass media perform their function impartially without discrimination, release the members and supporters of the South West Africa People's Organization who are in prison and create conditions which would ensure the normal conduct of the entire process of voter-registration and the electoral campaign.

Cuba is seriously concerned about strengthening the peace agreements already arrived at; it will continue working for the proper continuation of the process of implementing resolution Security Council 435 (1978), and remains ready to make the boldest efforts in this direction.

We are sure that the United Nations and you, Mr. President, will continue to extend your full co-operation to this struggle of all honourable peoples and men for peace in the African continent, which will redound to the benefit of that region and of mankind as a whole. In congratulating you for the efforts you are making in this respect and reaffirming our solidarity with the people of Namibia, I take the opportunity to convey to you the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

6. H.E. Mr. George Vassiliou, President of the Republic of Cyprus

[Original: English]

The commemoration of Namibia Day this year coincides with important and decisive developments regarding the Territory and related to the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) which embodies the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia.

I wish on this occasion to reiterate the solidarity of the people and the Government of Cyprus, an active member of the United Nations Council for Namibia, with the courageous struggle which the people of Namibia have been waging for so many years to achieve their freedom and independence. The results of the efforts to reach a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the problem of Namibia, which my Government fully and unreservedly supports, are positive and encouraging.

The acceptance by the South African régime, after decades of deplorable disregard of all relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including the above-mentioned Security Council resolution, which provides the only internationally acceptable framework for a process leading to a free and

independent Namibia, can be seen as the vindication of the heroic struggle of the Namibian people, as well as of concerted international action against the policies of the racist régime.

The elections to be held soon in Namibia will provide its people with the opportunity to exercise freely their democratic right to elect their own representatives, thus achieving their legitimate political aspirations.

In conclusion, I emphasize my country's support and sincere appreciation for the untiring efforts of the United Nations Council for Namibia towards achieving the Territory's independence.

Cyprus looks forward to close relations with Namibia and its friendly people.

7. H.E. Mr. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Chairman of the Organization of African Unity

[Original: Arabic]

I am pleased, on the occasion of the observance of Namibia Day, which takes place this year with the theme "International Support for Namibia's Transition to Independence through Full and Effective Implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978)", to convey, on behalf of the people and Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, greetings and esteem for the struggle of the fraternal people of Namibia for liberation and independence.

The people of Egypt are following closely the developments in the heroic struggle being waged by the people of Namibia in the southern part of our African continent in order to strike at the last stronghold of colonialism in Africa and break the bonds of injustice and exploitation. Egypt has always been in the forefront of the States supporting the legitimate struggle of the people of Namibia, in partnership with them along the rough road which they have followed, providing them with backing and support towards liberation and independence. Egypt has joined with fraternal African States in espousing the cause of Namibia in the international arena to defend its usurped rights. Egypt has had the honour of participating in the work of the United Nations Council for Namibia since its inception and has participated in its activity and its sincere efforts to make the cause of Namibia known in all parts of the world and to represent this usurped territory in international forums until the international community was able to adopt the historic Security Council resolution 435 (1978), which established the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia. That plan has encountered many obstacles since 1978 and still faces challenges on the way to its full and comprehensive implementation.

The international community is called upon at this stage to intensify its efforts to ensure the just implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and to call upon South Africa - or, rather, to impel it - to fulfil its obligations under this resolution. The responsibility for the realization of the independence of Namibia devolves upon every member of the international community. We must all

give our full backing and support to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his aides in their sincere and constructive efforts to surmount the difficulties and obstacles lying in the way of Namibia's independence at this critical transition stage and guarantee the integrity of the election laws so that free and impartial elections can be held. We have full confidence in the capabilities of the Secretary-General to bring the ship safely to shore.

As current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, I look forward to Namibia's future as an independent sovereign State and member of our African organization, so that it may assume its natural place among its brothers.

8. H.E. Lt.-Gen. Prosper Avril, President, Republic of Haiti

[Original: French]

The Government of the Republic of Haiti welcomes the celebration of Namibia Day.

The observance of this Day provides a further opportunity for the Haitian Government and people to renew their support for the Namibian people in their just struggle for the total liberation of their country.

The Republic of Haiti has consistently maintained this position. Accordingly, it unreservedly supports the initiatives that led to the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and continues to give its strongest support to the efforts of the international community to bring about the real independence of Namibia. In celebrating this important date, the Haitian Government and people reaffirm their trust in the United Nations Council for Namibia, which has steadfastly waged an unremitting struggle to usher in a democratic society in Namibia.

9. H.E. Mr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the commemoration of Namibia Day, I wish to take this opportunity to express Malaysia's continued solidarity with, and support for, the people of Namibia in their valiant struggle against foreign control and domination of their country. The Government and people of Malaysia, along with the rest of the international community, have been in the forefront in the global campaign against the occupying Power, South Africa, for the freedom and independence of Namibia, and will continue to occupy that vanguard position in the remaining period of that struggle.

It is a matter of particular pride and satisfaction to Malaysia that the important Security Council resolution 629 (1989) was adopted during its presidency of the Council, thus providing an additional depth and dimension to its already close association with, and commitment to, the Namibian independence struggle.

With the prospects of freedom and independence for Namibia appearing on the horizon, Malaysia pledges itself to continue with the struggle, shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of Namibia and the international community, to remove remaining obstacles so as to ensure the early attainment of Namibian independence through free and fair elections.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express Malaysia's deep appreciation and satisfaction over the manner in which the United Nations Council for Namibia has over the past year carried out its mandate. We attach particular importance to the activities and devotion of the Council towards the liberation of Namibia.

10. H.E. General Moussa Traore, President of the Republic of Mali

[Original: French]

On the occasion of the observance of Namibia Day on 26 August, it is a pleasure for me on behalf of the people of Mali, their party - the Mali People's Democratic Union - and their Government and on my own behalf to reaffirm to the valiant people of Namibia our unswerving support in their struggle for the liberation of their homeland. The people of Mali welcome the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) on the independence of Namibia. All of Africa has been following with great interest the electoral campaign and has strongly condemned Pretoria's manoeuvres aimed at sidetracking for its own benefit the process in Namibia. Africa in general and Mali in particular will not accept the subversion of Namibia's independence. The United Nations, which bears the main responsibility for the Territory, should do everything to guarantee authentic independence for the Namibian people.

11. H.E. Mr. Daniel Ortega Saavedra, President of the Republic of Nicaragua

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the observance of Namibia Day, the people and Government of Nicaragua reaffirm once again their total support for, and solidarity with, the Namibian people and their vanguard, the South West Africa People's Organization, in their arduous and just struggle to achieve their legitimate rights to self-determination and independence.

Nicaragua has viewed with concern the obstacles that have arisen one after the other to the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), which calls upon the Pretoria régime and its allies to put an end once and for all to their intransigence and take the path of reason, co-operating fully with the United Nations in the process that will lead to the total independence of Namibia.

The observance of Namibia Day, which falls in the midst of the independence process, is of vital importance to the international community because the day is

being celebrated for the first time, during a period when, with the support of the international community, Namibians will soon be able to choose their leaders and shape their own destiny.

We commend the efforts of the United Nations Council for Namibia which for many years, together with the progressive nations of the world, has waged an arduous struggle for an independent Namibia.

12. H.E. Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal

[Original: French]

This year the international community is celebrating Namibia Day at a time when the implementation of the United Nations plan for the settlement of the Namibian question, contained in Security Council resolution 435 (1978), is in its fifth month.

As the culmination of relentless efforts, the progressive achievement of Namibia's independence is thus taking a decisive and irreversible turn.

This marks one more victory for the United Nations, which has never failed to take a particular interest in the question of Namibia, for which it decided to assume direct and special responsibility.

There is therefore good reason to celebrate the glorious and determined march of our brothers, the valiant Namibian people, towards independence and dignity.

At the same time, this is the moment to be vigilant, because the road leading to freedom is still strewn with pitfalls and obstacles of all sorts.

I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to His Excellency Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Secretary-General of the United Nations, together with all his staff and the members of the United Nations Transition Group for their perseverance and devotion to the Namibian cause.

The United Nations, which in this case was assigned the duties of supervision and monitoring, and particularly the Security Council, the organ chiefly responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, must see to it that the elections to be held in Namibia are free and fair.

Only the strict and full implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) will allow Namibia to achieve genuine national independence.

I therefore urge the international community to make renewed efforts in this sensitive phase of the transition towards independence for Namibia and ultimately the complete liberation of the African continent.

Senegal, having always given strong and resolute support to the just struggle of the valiant brother people of Namibia under the enlightened leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization, rejoices in advance over the fact that the community of nations will soon welcome into its midst the new State of Namibia, once the long colonial night has given way to the dawn of freedom.

In conclusion, I would like to pay heartfelt tribute to the United Nations Council for Namibia, to its President and its members, for the determination and devotion with which they are assuming their historic responsibilities.

13. H.E. Mr. R. Premadasa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

[Original: English]

It gives me great pleasure to send this message to the meeting convened by the United Nations Council for Namibia in commemoration of Namibia Day.

Namibia Day is an appropriate occasion for the international community to express its support for the just struggle of the people of Namibia.

The commemoration of Namibia Day is of special significance this year as it is being held on the eve of the momentous changes which will herald the dawn of freedom in Namibia.

We take this opportunity to salute the heroic leaders of the South West Africa People's Organization, who have led the people of Namibia in their march towards their cherished goal of independence. The people and Government of Sri Lanka join me in reaffirming our solidarity with the people of Namibia in their legitimate struggle for self-determination and independence.

14. H.E. Mr. Zine Elabidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia

[Original: Arabic]

Today, on 26 August 1989, Tunisia has great pride in joining the international community in the observance of Namibia Day, as a statement of its active solidarity with the legitimate aspirations of the people of Namibia for independence and dignity.

Tunisia, which is proud of its own struggle for independence and loyal to its values and commitment to support peoples struggling against the forces of occupation, colonialism and injustice, wishes to reaffirm its belief in the rights of nations and individuals to freedom, dignity and justice. It takes this opportunity to express once again to the militants of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) its esteem and support for their heroic struggle for liberation and emancipation.

The Tunisian Government, which is following with interest and gratification the continued implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia, expresses to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the same occasion, its appreciation for the decisions that he has taken and for the effort which he is making towards the liquidation of colonialism and the peaceful settlement of international disputes.

Today, we feel confident with regard to the decisive and serious United Nations measures, including the reinforcement of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group, in which Tunisia has the honour of participating. We view with wariness the prevarication manoeuvres of the racist Pretoria régime, and appeal to the international community to redouble its efforts and vigilance so that the fraternal people of Namibia, under the leadership of SWAPO, may be able to exercise their right in a democratic atmosphere free from impediments and pressures from any source.

Mention should also be made today of the positions of solidarity and support still being maintained by the front-line States and the sacrifices that they are bearing and also of the part played by the Organization of African Unity in the struggle of this indigenous African people.

Tunisia, which today reaffirms its stand in support of the struggling Namibian people, believes unswervingly in the necessity of implementing all the provisions of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). Tunisia appeals to the international community to redouble its efforts to achieve the final elimination of all forms of colonialism and racist discrimination and to endeavour to ensure the appropriate international climate to enable peoples to exercise their natural and legitimate rights to freedom, dignity and progress.

15. His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahayan, President of the United Arab Emirates

[Original: Arabic]

I am pleased to transmit to you and to the members of the United Nations Council for Namibia, on behalf of the United Arab Emirates, greetings on the occasion of the formal meeting which you are holding in observance of Namibia Day.

We, for our part, have followed the sustained efforts which you have made and the endeavours which you have been pursuing to liberate that people from the yoke of the oppression exercised against them by the racist Government of South Africa in order to prevent them from exercising their right to self-determination and achieving their freedom and independence. In this connection, we register to you our appreciation and reiterate our backing and support for every step that you may make towards the attainment of this noble objective.

The United Arab Emirates was one of the first to support Security Council resolution 435 (1978), which laid the groundwork for the liberation of Namibia and its emergence as a nation among nations. We criticized the Government of South

Africa for the obstacles which it set up and the difficulties which it created in order to delay the implementation of that resolution.

We were among the first to support the agreements concluded during the past year between the parties concerned with the implementation of that resolution, in partnership with the United Nations and under United Nations supervision, and we hoped and continue to hope that it will be achieved without difficulties or obstacles.

What concerns us greatly at the present time is the fact that the Government of South Africa is setting up obstacles and creating circumstances that prevent the people of Namibia from exercising their right to self-determination in a free and natural way, in order to prevent the South West Africa People's Organization from winning the elections. Consequently, the falsification of those elections and the rigged victory of puppets and mercenaries would be a guarantee of the continuation of the South African Government's domination over the Territory.

In this connection, we commend the move by the States of the African Group to bring this matter before the Security Council, and we pledge that we, for our part, will support any resolution they may put forward and will do all in our part to ensure its implementation.

In conclusion, I wish to stress once again that we are with you and fully support you in whatever you may deem appropriate in order to achieve the liberation and independence of Namibia.

16. H.E. Mr. Do Muoi, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

[Original: English]

On the occasion of Namibia Day (26 August), I would like to convey to Your Excellencies, to the Namibian people and to the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) my warmest greetings.

The Vietnamese people are happy to see that over the past years, the Namibian people, under the leadership of SWAPO, have recorded many important victories in their heroic struggle against the South African authorities' aggression and occupation for national independence and freedom. After a long and hard struggle, the Namibian people have compelled the Pretoria régime to accept the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) on the restoration of independence to Namibia as of 1 April 1989.

The people and Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam have followed with keen interest the ongoing process of restoring independence to Namibia, and strongly condemn all schemes and acts of manipulating and obstructing this process by the imperialist and reactionary forces. We fully support the Namibian and southern African peoples in their struggle for the strict implementation by the Pretoria régime of the signed agreements on the basis of full respect for Namibian independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. At the same time, we believe

that the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations will closely co-operate with the parties concerned to ensure and propel the process of restoring independence to Namibia as provided for in Council resolution 435 (1978).

The people and Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam are confident that the Namibian people, united around SWAPO, and with the sympathy and support of the peace- and justice-loving countries in the world, will win ever-greater victories in their just cause. We also believe that they will build a prosperous and genuinely independent Namibia, thus contributing to the cause of long-lasting peace and stability in southern Africa and the world over.

17. H.E. Mr. Janez Drnovsek, President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

[Original: English]

On the occasion of Namibia Day, 26 August, I would like to express, on behalf of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and on my own behalf, best wishes for the soonest possible completion of the process of Namibia's accession to independence and the liberation of the people of Namibia from foreign occupation.

What makes the observance of the Namibia Day exceptionally important this year are the circumstances under which we observe it. After 23 years of illegal occupation by the racist régime of South Africa, a process is finally under way for the implementation of which the United Nations, and particularly its non-aligned members, have long and consistently striven. The improvement of international relations has enabled the long awaited commencement of the implementation of the United Nations plan for Namibia, contained in Security Council resolution 435 (1978). That gives us reason to believe that this year Namibia Day will be a genuine day of hope for Namibia and its people. The struggle of the Namibian people, under the leadership of its sole legitimate representative, the liberation movement of the South West Africa People's Organization, is finally bearing fruit and the day of freedom, we trust, is near at last.

Namibia's genuine independence will be a great success for the United Nations and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. We must not forget, however, that that goal has not yet been attained. Until that time, all efforts of the international community at achieving that end should be continued, so that conditions are of such to enable the Namibian people to decide freely and independently on their own type of socio-political and economic development. In order to achieve that goal, great responsibility rests with the United Nations. All of the problems that we are encountering should be overcome and removed by joint effort, so as to enable Namibia to take its rightful place in the community of independent and sovereign nations. The importance of that act for the strengthening of peace and security in southern Africa should be specially mentioned.

For its part, Yugoslavia is resolved to continue to render its full contribution until the realization of that noble goal.

18. H.E. Mr. K. D. Kaunda, President of the Republic of Zambia

[Original: English]

It is most fitting that this year's commemoration of Namibia Day, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3111 (XXVIII) of 12 December 1973, seeks to stress international support for Namibia's transition to independence through full and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

Four months have now elapsed since the long awaited, albeit tentative and tragic, commencement of the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) on 1 April 1989. During those four months there have been significant developments both inside Namibia and pertaining to the implementation process, which now endow the international community with an enlightened sense of what is going well, what is not going well and of what should be done to ensure full and effective implementation of Council resolution 435 (1978). Indeed, that four-month period has yielded ample and incontrovertible evidence of which party is, or is not complying, and to what extent, with the provisions of Council resolution 435 (1978) which embodies the settlement plan. In this indispensable critical review and appraisal of the current situation concerning Namibia, the international community has benefited greatly from first-hand on the spot reports of numerous impartial observer groups, liaison missions and non-governmental organizations, as well as from the recent Security Council meeting convened at the initiative of members of the African Group of States at the United Nations and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at United Nations Headquarters.

The international community can justifiably be proud of its efforts in monitoring and spotlighting the events inside Namibia as they relate to the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). Thanks to such support and vigilance, the international community, through the Council, can and must now act to consolidate and expand areas of progress and to rectify situations where things have gone wrong, particularly as a result of South Africa's calculated non-compliance with the terms of the settlement plan and its wanton acts of intimidation, harassment and terrorism against the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), its supporters and the civilian population, especially by Koevoet elements in the South West Africa Police (SWAPOL). These acts of intimidation and harassment of members of SWAPO and the civilian population are intended to induce revenge and precipitous action on the part of SWAPO supporters and thus justify the remobilization and intervention of Koevoet and the South West Africa Territorial Force.

Furthermore, action is imperative to ensure, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his Special Representative, the registration of persons entitled to vote and the enactment of legislation concerning the electoral process and the Constituent Assembly which are consistent with the settlement plan and conform with universally recognized norms for the conduct of free and fair elections. All those actions are essential, nay indispensable, to the creation of conditions for the conduct of free and fair elections, as are the repeal of all discriminatory and restrictive laws, the release of all Namibian political prisoners held by South African authorities and observance of impartiality in the

provision of media facilities to all political parties during the electoral campaign. On all these aspects of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), South Africa is the non-complying party, and by design. For we in the front-line States are aware of South Africa's diabolical strategy to cheat SWAPO out of victory, to deny SWAPO a two-thirds majority in the Constituent Assembly so that SWAPO may not be in a position to write a constitution befitting a truly independent Namibia. South Africa's design is to destabilize a future Namibia and to keep it dependent, weak and unstable, a bantustan. It is determined to do so by resorting to intimidation and harassment, as well as by subverting and manipulating the electoral process.

It is the solemn duty of the Security Council to ensure South Africa's compliance with the provisions of its resolution 435 (1978). South Africa must be compelled to honour its commitments under the settlement plan. It must not be allowed to continue to betray the sacred trust embodied in the settlement plan. In particular, the permanent members of the Security Council must bring their individual and collective influence to bear on South Africa. Both the image, integrity and authority of the Council are at stake. These attributes should not be compromised by narrow and short-sighted consideration, including economic consideration. It is certainly paradoxical that the champions of democracy and free and fair elections, the essence of Council resolution 435 (1978), have had to invoke cost considerations to undermine the effectiveness of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia. Yet, in other less compelling circumstances they have readily devoted abundant resources to promote these same ideals. Such selectivity and double standard approach is, indeed, conduct unbecoming of their solemn responsibility and status. Is it motivated by consideration of region, race, colour or creed? Is it by design or accidental?

Current developments inside Namibia have amply demonstrated that the Security Council must, of necessity, assert its role and solemn responsibility in order to contribute to the full and effective implementation of its resolution 435 (1978). The Council must be willing to provide UNTAG with adequate resources to fulfil its sacred task. This is the most concrete demonstration of support for and co-operation with the Secretary-General, whose efforts in this undertaking deserve highest commendation. Throughout the negotiations leading to the adoption of resolution 435 (1978) and thereafter, Zambia and other front-line States on behalf of the Organization of African Unity have stressed the imperative need to provide the Secretary-General and his Special Representative with adequate manpower resources to enable them to discharge their solemn responsibilities effectively and thereby ensure the full and effective implementation of resolution 435 (1978). We continue to uphold this view which has been vindicated by current developments in Namibia and by reports of various independent observers who have visited Namibia. UNTAG must be reinforced so that the Namibian people can determine the future of their country under free, fair and democratic elections.

In this regard, an area of progress in the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) has been the repatriation of Namibian refugees and exiles. I wish to pay tribute to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his dedicated staff for their laudable efforts.

I wish to reassure the Secretary-General of Zambia's continued full support in all his efforts to implement Security Council resolution 435 (1978) in its original and definitive form. This renewed pledge of our support and co-operation is also extended to you, Mr. President, and to other esteemed members of your Council which has been charged with the responsibility of administering the international Territory of Namibia until independence, an independent Namibia we can all be proud of, one which will contribute to the security, peace, stability and development of our southern African region.

Let me conclude by expressing Zambia's earnest hope and prayer that by this time next year the international community will be celebrating the birth of a new independent Namibia, the culmination of the full and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

B. Governments

1. Argentina

[Original: Spanish]

The Government and people of the Argentine Republic join in commemorating Namibia Day in the full conviction that a free and independent Namibia will soon be a definitive reality.

The United Nations and all its Member States have the obligation and the responsibility to ensure that the independence of the people of Namibia is achieved on the appointed date. It is thus unavoidable and urgent for the entire international community to express its fullest support for the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia contained in Security Council resolution 435 (1978), and for the action the Organization is currently carrying out, through its Secretary-General and representative, in the Territory.

The Argentine Government emphasizes the importance of the United Nations Council for Namibia in its continuing struggle on behalf of the Namibian people, and expresses its appreciation of the work the Council is carrying out in that connection.

2. Brazil

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the commemoration of Namibia Day, the Brazilian Government, on behalf of its people, wishes to renew its support for, and solidarity with, the cause of Namibian self-determination and the activities of the United Nations Council for Namibia.

Owing to its close and varied ties to the African peoples, with whom it shares the common border of the South Atlantic, Brazil has been following closely the

situation in southern Africa and has given its support to the work and the programmes of the Council.

As a member of the Security Council, Brazil has strongly supported the Secretary-General in his work towards the full and faithful implementation of the United Nations plan for Namibian independence. The Brazilian Government has also insisted on the need for close and permanent surveillance by the Security Council of developments in Namibia, in order to ensure that all aspects of the independence plan are implemented in full accordance with Council resolution 435 (1978).

3. Costa Rica

[Original: Spanish]

On this occasion on which the celebration of Namibia Day coincides with the commencement of the independence process for Namibia on the basis of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), the Government and people of Costa Rica wish to express their full solidarity with the efforts of the United Nations in order that they may culminate in the independence of Namibia.

Costa Rica supports and recognizes the central role played in the process by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), particularly his personal visit to Namibia to obtain first-hand knowledge of what is happening and provide guidance to his staff working with UNTAG, who are performing their duties in difficult and dangerous conditions.

As a country which attaches vital importance to the genuine exercise of independence, self-determination and democracy through free and genuine elections, Costa Rica considers that the forthcoming elections in Namibia should be free and fair in order that Namibia may become a member of the United Nations with all the attributes of a free, independent and sovereign State. To this end, we urge the Government of South Africa to discharge faithfully its commitments to implementing Security Council resolution 435 (1978) in full. At the same time, we share the view widely expressed in the Security Council and in international circles that it is vital for UNTAG to receive sufficient staff to enable it to discharge effectively the mandate conferred on it by that resolution, since its effective presence in Namibia is essential to the conduct of free and fair elections. In this connection, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Costa Rica has decided to accept the invitation to participate in the process of supervising the elections in Namibia by sending delegates to observe them.

Costa Rica expresses its most sincere wish that all these efforts of the international community should result in a free, independent and sovereign Namibia.

4. Guyana

[Original: English]

Namibia day this year comes some five months into the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and finds independence and nationhood for Africa's last colony a distinct possibility.

Close on 40,000 Namibians have been repatriated to their homeland to engage in the task of democratically choosing their leaders. Just a few short months ago these people wore the label "refugees". They had been uprooted from their homes and constrained to exist in exile on the sufferance of their benefactors. For them to struggle was a day-to-day fact of life. The goal of their struggle, a free and independent Namibia, now seems within reach.

The involvement of the United Nations, with the placement of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) under the supervision of the Secretary-General's Special Representative, is clearly a key ingredient in the creation of the climate which conduced to the current positive developments. The Secretary-General himself has paid tribute to UNTAG, which has been drawn from 109 different nationalities and includes a police contingent from Guyana.

Even as we remark on the positive aspects of the implementation, however, we cannot overlook the worrying, negative features which were the subject of debate in the Security Council, beginning on Thursday, 17 August 1989. Non-compliance with Council resolution 435 (1978) in respect of Koevoet and the South West Africa Territorial Force, and selective application of impartiality agreements are clearly disturbing features. Once commonsense and goodwill prevail, however, the optimism which has been voiced about free and fair elections may not be misplaced. The international community must be vigilant to ensure that, at this critical stage, the implementation of Council resolution 435 (1978), does not falter or fail. The people of Namibia do need this chance to chart their own destiny. In this they may count on the utmost support of the Guyanese Government and people.

5. Indonesia

[Original: English]

As an expression of solidarity with the people of Namibia and in conjunction with the commemoration of Namibia Day on 26 August 1989, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia announced today the release of a cheque for $US 250,000 to the South West Africa Pecple's Organization as its contribution to the Namibian people in their struggle to attain independence. This constitutes part of the disbursement of Indonesia's pledge given to the Action for Resisting Invasion, Colonialism and Apartheid (AFRICA) Fund.

The Indonesian Government has consistently supported the objectives of the Fund, especially in strengthening the economic and financial capabilities of the front-line States to meet the challenges posed by the apartheid régime, as well as

to cope with the struggle against oppression faced by the liberation movements in South Africa and Namibia.

The funds allotted in this regard will be utilized to embark on a nation-wide mobilization campaign to educate the Namibian people on the importance of the electoral process and to procure the needed equipment and materials from friendly countries.

6. Jamaica

[Original: English]

The commemoration of Namibia Day comes at a crucial moment in the history of that country. After almost a century of domination and repression by the illegal apartheid régime of South Africa, Namibia stands on the threshold of gaining full sovereignty and independence.

Sadly, this new era in Namibia's history appears to be threatened, as reports of the developments relating to the implementation of the United Nations plans for Namibian independence suggest that a carefully orchestrated plan is being mounted by South Africa to subvert the electoral and constitutional process. The racist Government's blatant disregard and violation of its obligations, through a systematic process of intimidation of the Namibian people, has serious consequences for the holding of free and fair elections in accordance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978), which constitutes the only internationally accepted basis for a peaceful settlement of the Namibian situation.

The Government of Jamaica is deeply concerned that these obstacles to free and fair elections, if not immediately removed, could result in continued control by South Africa over Namibia in the post-independence period. It is therefore absolutely essential for the international community to be unreserved in its support for Namibia's transition to independence through the full and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

On the occasion of Namibia Day, the Government and people of Jamaica remain resolute in their commitment to the struggle of the Namibian people for independence and sovereignty. Jamaica stands ready to offer further tangible support to Namibia. We look forward to receiving Namibia into the family of nations as a fully independent and sovereign nation, free from any vestige of colonial control and domination.

7. Liberia

[Original: English]

The annual event of the commemoration of Namibia Day presents an opportunity to emphasize the United Nations responsibility for the Territory of Namibia until independence, as well as to ensure freedom and self-determination for the Namibian people in accordance with the plan embodied in Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

In December 1988, Angola, Cuba and South Africa entered into an agreement that committed them to co-operate with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in achieving Namibia's independence througn free and fair elections.

Events that have occurred in Namibia since 1 April 1989, when the Territory's transition to independence was launched, give cause for grave concern. Four months after its commencement, it can be seen that the electoral process is far from being free and fair, simply because South Africa has consistently obstructed implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia starting from the inception of the plan to the present time.

An example of South Africa's blatant obstruction is its policy of dealing with its notorious insurgency unit known as Koevoet. Security Council resolution 435 (1978) calls for the disbandment of this unit and the dismantling of its command structure. What has happened is that South Africa has integrated ex-Koevoet elements into the South West Africa Police (SWAPOL). The purpose of this action can only be to continue its policy of harassment and intimidation of the civilian population.

Bearing in mind South Africa's propensity to disrespect agreements freely entered into, it becomes even more important for the international community to be scrupulously vigilant so as to detect the slightest move by the racist Pretoria régime to manipulate the electoral process. There are already indications that the Administrator-General has sinister intentions; he should not be permitted to prolong depriving the Namibian people of their right to freedom for which they have waited for so long. The United Nations, having entrusted its Secretary-General and his Special Representative in the Territory with supervision and control of the electoral plan as contained in Security Council resolution 435 (1978), must see to it, and indeed insist, that they are in full control of the implementation of the process at all times.

The Namibian people have been unjustly deprived of their inalienable right to freedom and independence, and the international community is impatient with the intransigence of South Africa, with continues its relentless exploitation of the Territory, and the reckless plunder of its rich resources.

The Government and people of Liberia, while reassuring their brothers and sisters in Namibia of their constant support and solidarity, take this opportunity to commend the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, for his steadfastness to the cause of Namibia's independence.

8. Mexico

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of Namibia Day, the Government of Mexico wishes to express its satisfaction at the commencement of implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia, the strict application of which should guarantee the exercise of the inalienable right of the Namibian people to self-determination.

In this connection, the Government of Mexico condemns any action designed to prevent the participation of the Namibian people in free and fair elections, without intimidation, and urges all interested parties to comply scrupulously and promptly with the Brazzaville Protocol and the Agreement signed in New York on 22 December 1988, as well as with Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

Mexico reiterates its unconditional support for the inalienable right of the Namibian people to self-determination and the independence of the Territory, including Walvis Bay, the Penguin Islands and other offshore islands, in line with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations. Likewise, as a member of the United Nations Council for Namibia, Mexico reaffirms its strong solidarity with the Territory until it comes to occupy its rightful place in the community of free and independent nations.

9. Pakistan

[Original: English]

The denial of freedom and liberty in southern Africa has always been a matter of deep concern to Pakistan. Therefore, the illegal occupation of Namibia by the racist Pretoria régime in defiance of the will of the international community and in violation of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations has been consistently condemned by the Government and people of Pakistan.

Pakistan joined the international community in welcoming the initiation, on 1 April 1989, of the implementation process of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia as contained in Security Council resolution 435 (1978). The Government and the people of Pakistan are proud to be associated with the United Nations independence plan for Namibia through the contribution of personnel to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG).

We hope that the Pretoria régime will not try to prevent UNTAG from fulfilling its mandate within the stipulated time-frame, and that the scheduled election will take place in November this year, paving the way for the emergence of Namibia as an independent and sovereign State.

Today, on the occasion of Namibia Day, the Government of Pakistan reiterates its total solidarity with the people of Namibia and pays tribute to their indomitable struggle, under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization, the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people in the pursuit of self-determination and national independence.

10. Papua New Guinea

[Original: English]

Namibia is finally at the crossroads of its independence. The agony, destruction and oppression which the Namibian people have suffered for more than a century are about to come to an end; freedom is looming on the horizon.

On behalf of the Government and people of Papua New Guinea, I salute the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and the Namibian people for their determination and tenacity to wage the long and bitter struggle for their God-given right to be free people. Many members of their families, men, women and children, paid dearly for the freedom of Namibia. We pay special tribute to all these unsung heroes and heroines. Their heroic struggle for freedom and independence has won the support and resolve of the world community.

Despite formidable odds, SWAPO stood tall and fought bravely at the battle front and also participated actively at the negotiating table. The efforts of SWAPO were realized when the Security Council adopted its historic resolution 435 (1978), which embodies the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia.

Now that Security Council resolution 435 (1978) is being implemented, and the transition to independence has been set in motion, the Government and people of Papua New Guinea are happy once again to pay tribute to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the President of the United Nations Council for Namibia, His Excellency Ambassador Peter Zuze, and, last but not the least, the late United Nations Commissioner for Namibia, Bernt Carlsson. Your dedication and diligence in fulfilling the trusteeship obligations of the United Nations in Namibia and for its people are highly commendable.

In conclusion, may I reaffirm the solidarity of the Government and people of Papua New Guinea with the people of Namibia and other colonized peoples of the world. We shall, together, overcome.

11. The Five Nordic Countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden)

[Original: English]

On the occasion of Namibia Day 1989, the five Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, note with satisfaction that despite certain difficulties, the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) on Namibia's independence is proceeding largely according to the settlement plan and they express the hope that free and fair elections to form a Constituent Assembly will take place in November. The United Nations presence in Namibia has been and will continue to be of crucial importance to the peaceful transition to independence of the Territory. The Nordic countries express their continued support for United Nations efforts in Namibia through, inter alia, their participation in the United Nations Transition Assistance Group and by placing election observers at the disposal of the United Nations.

The Nordic countries stress the importance of the swift reintegration of returning refugees into the local community.

In this connection, the Nordic countries express concern that the paramilitary Koevoet elements which have been integrated into the South West Africa Police have continued their intimidation in the northern regions. This represents a threat to the returning refugees and to the civilian population of Namibia as a whole.

The Nordic countries reaffirm their commitment to continuing humanitarian assistance during the transition period and will initiate negotiations with the Government of an independent Namibia on development co-operation in the future. The international community should give high priority to both economic and political support for Namibia.

The Nordic countries reaffirm their support for the Secretary-General's efforts and reiterate their readiness to assist the United Nations in carrying out the peaceful transition to a free and independent Namibia.

12. The Twelve members of the European Economic Community

[Original: French]

The celebration of Namibia Day has a particular character this year. The question of Namibia, which has been on the agenda of our Organization since its establishment, is actually being brought, at last, to a settlement.

The Twelve had last year noted with satisfaction the progress being made in the negotiations, which led to the New York accords, signed on 22 December 1988, and paved the way for the implementation of the plan outlined in Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

By its resolution 629 (1989) of 16 January 1989, the Security Council decided, inter alia, to set 1 April 1989 as the date on which implementation of resolution 435 (1978) would begin.

By its resolution 632 (1989) of 16 February 1989, the Security Council approved the report of the Secretary-General (23 January 1989) and his explanatory statement (9 February 1989). The Council also decided to implement its resolution 435 (1978) in order to ensure conditions in Namibia which would allow the Namibian people to participate freely and without intimidation in the electoral process under United Nations supervision.

The Twelve, having constantly affirmed their commitment to the implementation of the United Nations settlement plan without delay or pre-conditions, cannot help but welcome its actual implementation since 1 April 1989.

Despite some serious difficulties at the outset, the process that has been set in motion is now on the right track. Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar himself said, upon returning from his stay in Namibia, that he was encouraged by the way in which the settlement plan was proceeding. The task of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative is certainly not an easy one. Their determination in performing it commands respect. More than ever their role is crucial, and their efforts must continue to receive our total support.

The European Community and its 12 member States remain resolved to contribute significantly to the development of a free and independent Namibia.

On the occasion of Namibia Day, the Twelve express their satisfaction at seeing the country on the verge of achieving independence, under the auspices of the United Nations and pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the Organization.

13. Mr. Zuhdi Labib Terzi, on behalf of the Arab Group of States of the United Nations

[Original: English]

The brotherly people of Namibia have made good progress along the way to victory thanks to its long struggle against the racist occupation régime and to its relentless defence of its right to freedom and dignity.

The League of Arab States Secretary-General never missed an opportunity to reaffirm the Arab principles and firm position in favour of the cause of the Namibian people and their heroic struggle under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO). Out of their commitment to the duties of Afro-Arab solidarity and their principle of backing of peoples' struggle for freedom and independence, the Arab States have consistently provided SWAPO with all forms of support and assistance. While it takes pride in the imminent access of Namibia to independence, the League of Arab States expresses its support of United Nations efforts to speed up the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) relative to Namibia's independence. It calls, at the same time, for the full and scrupulous implementation of the said resolution, thus enabling the Namibian people to express their will freely and far from any form of intervention by the racist régime and its insidious attempts to tamper with the elections due to be held at the end of this year.

While calling upon the international community to provide urgent support to SWAPO in its efforts to win the forthcoming elections, the Arab League Secretary-General expresses the hope that the recent developments in southern Africa will open up a new era of peace, security and stability for the States of the region. We equally wish that United Nations involvement in the Namibian issue will serve as an example to be followed in the quest for a solution of the Palestinian problem, which, in essence, is not different from the Namibian case.

C. Ministers for Foreign Affairs

1. H.E. Mr. Maurice King, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Barbados

[Original: English]

Today, 26 August, marks the commemoration of Namibia Day and Barbados joins with the international community in expressing solidarity with the struggling people of that southern African nation as they prepare to embark upon the road to independence.

Theirs has been a history of colonial domination by South Africa, of repression, racial discrimination and the denial of fundamental rights and freedoms.

Since 1966 when the General Assembly terminated the mandate exercised by South Africa over Namibia and placed Namibia under direct United Nations control until it gained its independence, South Africa has continued to occupy illegally the mineral-rich Namibia and to pursue a policy of aggression and intimidation against the Namibian people.

Efforts to effect change by the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), recognized by the United Nations as the sole and legitimate representative of the Namibian people, have been hindered considerably by constant attacks inflicted on its members by the South African forces. This has not deterred the Namibian people from pursuing their relentless struggle for independence from South Africa. The struggle has been long and costly, but it has not been waged in vain. It has impressed upon the conscience of the international community the need for urgent action to put an end to the illegal occupation of Namibia and to establish a system of majority rule in the Territory.

Namibia's attainment of independence is long overdue. The South African Government has tried every ruse to impede its progress to independence, and has been presumptuous enough to insist on making a linkage between Namibia's right to sovereignty and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. I am happy to report, however, that since the signing of the Brazzaville Accords in December 1988, significant progress is being made in the preparations for independence.

At present, stationed in Namibia is the United Nations Transition Assistance Group with its military and civilian components, mandated by Security Council resolution 435 (1978) to oversee the withdrawal of South African forces from Namibia and the holding of elections under United Nations supervision and control. Barbados, like many other Member countries of the United Nations, has responded positively to the request by the Secretary-General to provide a contingent of persons to serve as police monitors. Twenty-one members of the Royal Barbados Police Force are in Namibia assisting with the transition process.

The South African Government must recognize that the era of colonialism and oppression has come to an end and that Namibia will eventually be free to determine its own destiny without interference from Pretoria.

The Barbados Government is committed to playing as full a role in the transition process as its human and financial resources will permit. It recognizes SWAPO as the sole, legitimate and authentic representative of the Namibian people pending the elections to be held, and has supported the United Nations in its condemnation of South Africa's continuing illegal occupation of Namibia.

Barbados has supported the appeal for economic and other assistance to front-line States faced with reprisals from Pretoria and has contributed $100,000 to the Special Fund for the Front-line States. Barbados has also offered fellowships to Namibian students to allow them to study in Barbados.

Today, as we commemorate Namibia Day, the Government of Barbados wishes publicly to express its support for the Namibian people and the work of the United Nations in bringing about a peaceful transition to majority rule in that Territory. The Barbados Government looks forward to the day when Namibia will take its rightful place in the international community as a sovereign State.

2. H.E. Mr. Carlos Iturralde Ballivian, Minister for External Relations and Culture of the Republic of Bolivia

[Original Spanish]

In commemorating Namibia Day, the people and Government of Bolivia renew their solidarity with the lawful struggle of the Namibian people, who have long been subjected to colonial and racist occupation by South Africa.

Bolivia also wishes to express on this solemn occasion its conviction that the Namibian nation, which has fully embarked on the transition, will very soon attain its freedom and independence by exercising its inalienable right to self-determination through the free and sovereign expression of the will of the noble Namibian people, and will come to take its rightful place in the great family of the United Nations as an independent sovereign State.

3. H.E. Mr. Hernan Felipe Errazuriz, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile

[Original: Spanish]

In commemorating Namibia Day, I have the honour to convey to you, and through you to all members of the United Nations Council for Namibia, unvarying solidarity with the praiseworthy and efficient work being conducted for the independence of the Territory and the self-determination of its people.

Chile, as a founder member of the Council, feels particularly honoured to have been involved, right from the outset, in the work relating to the attainment of an independent Namibia. The time is drawing near when these efforts will reach their culmination which, along with contributing to peace, will give us an opportunity to see a new country in the community of nations.

On this day of such great significance, the greetings of the people and Government of Chile go, through me, to all those who are making it possible to complete the process of independence for Namibia.

4. H.E. Mr. Kim Yong Nam, Vice-Premier of the Administration Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

[Original: English]

I consider it my sublime duty to express on the occasion of Namibia Day the unwavering support and solidarity of the Government and people of our Republic for the courageous Namibian people who are waging an arduous struggle to crumble the last bulwark of colonialism in Africa and achieve genuine self-determination, freedom and complete, fair and reasonable national independence.

I am pleased to note that United Nations resolutions on the independence of Namibia are being implemented thanks to the long drawn-out struggle of the Namibian people and the efforts of the United Nations. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people denounce South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia as an outrageous violation of national self-determination of the Namibian people and a serious challenge to international peace, and express full support to, and firm solidarity with, the South West Africa People's Organization and the Namibian people in their righteous struggle to hold general elections to establish a people's government.

The Namibian people's struggle will surely win victory amidst active support and encouragement of freedom-loving people the world over.

I wish you great success in your responsible and honourable work to bring to substantial fruition this year protracted efforts of the United Nations to achieve total independence for Namibia.

5. H.E. Mr. Martin Bongo, Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Gabon

[Original: French]

The observance of Namibia Day this year is, for my country and for Africa, an event of major importance. The choice of the theme of international support for a comprehensive and effective transition under Security Council resolution 435 (1978) is highly meaningful for us, the African nations.

My country, Gabon, which is closely following the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), beginning on 1 April 1989, with a view to leading Namibia to independence, takes this solemn occasion first to welcome the outcome thus far, and then to reiterate its continuing support for the Namibian people under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization.

Furthermore, my country remains watchful to ensure that the process by which Namibia achieves independence takes place in a climate of calm and respect for the commitments made by all parties. The adoption of Security Council resolutions 629 (1989 and 632 (1989) assuredly paves the way for Namibian independence.

Gabon also expresses its gratitude for the efforts made by the countries which provided volunteers pursuant to the Security Council resolutions, and assures them of its full co-operation in seeing to it that this noble mission is accomplished without fail. I take this opportunity to invite South Africa to hold to the provisions of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), for only in that way can be ensure the genuine independence of Namibia and the resulting peace in this region of southern Africa.

An independent Namibia is what we all wish for and hope to see become a reality.

6. H.E. Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq

[Original: Arabic]

On the occasion of Namibia Day 1989, I am pleased, on behalf of the people and Government of Iraq, to hail the struggle of the people of Namibia, who are fighting for their national independence and their freedom.

Iraq, as it reaffirms its steadfast position in support of the people of Namibia in their struggle to attain their inalienable rights and achieve the full integrity of their national territory, strongly condemns all racist and aggressive policies that impair the freedom and progress of peoples.

Iraq reaffirms its solidarity with, and support for, the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people.

Proceeding from the principles of our steadfast policy, Iraq takes the highest degree of interest in the subject of Arab-African co-operation and solidarity. Iraq has taken part and is taking part in the international efforts to achieve the full independence of Namibia. Once again, Iraq expresses its appreciation of the persevering efforts made by the United Nations Council for Namibia, its effective activities and its ongoing investigations, which promote the struggle of the Namibian people and establish confidence in the efforts of the United Nations and its numerous organizations.

Racist South Africa's persistence in placing obstacles in the way of Namibian independence makes it incumbent upon the United Nations, more than at any time in the past, to reaffirm its direct responsibilities for Namibia until such time as it achieves independence and to take urgent steps to ensure the full and faithful compliance of the racist régime in South Africa with United Nations resolutions and decisions, with a view to enabling the people of Namibia to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

All Governments, specialized agencies and international organizations must strive to lend full support to the efforts and activities undertaken by the United Nations Council for Namibia in co-operation with SWAPO.

7. H.E. Mr. Moshe Arens, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel

[Original: English]

Irael reiterates its position regarding the question of Namibia, which has been expressed on different occasions in the past. Israel expresses its solidarity with the people of Namibia and welcomes Namibia's progress towards independence.

8. H.E. Mr. Taro Nakayama, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

[Original: English]

It is a great honour to extend, on behalf of the Government and people of Japan, my warmest greetings to the people of Namibia, and to pay high tribute to the United Nations Council for Namibia for its contribution in advancing the cause of the Namibian people. This year the commemoration of Namibia Day has particular significance in view of the momentous developments that have taken place towards the achievement of the Territory's independence.

Japan has long shared the conviction that Namibia's transition to independence can only be achieved on the basis of free and fair elections. We are therefore pleased that steady preparations are under way for elections to be held under the supervision of the United Nations, and that the Namibian people will soon have the opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination.

On this occasion, the Government of Japan wishes to pay high tribute to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), which has been fulfilling a difficult and historic mission for the cause of Namibian independence. My Government wishes to confirm that, in addition to extending financial assistance, Japan is prepared to provide UNTAG with personnel to monitor the elections which are scheduled to take place early in November. Japan is fully confident that the people of Namibia will soon be able to enjoy their rights, privileges and obligations as citizens of a free and independent nation. We look forward to extending a warm welcome to Namibia as it takes its place in the comity of nations.

9. H.E. Mr. Marwan Al-Kasem, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Jordan

[Original: Arabic]

I am pleased to transmit to you this letter of solidarity on behalf of the Government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. As I thank you for addressing an invitation to my country to participate in this historic gathering, let me not omit to extend to your esteemed United Nations Council for Namibia the most sincere congratulations and great appreciation for its performance of its important role with regard to Namibia with faithfulness and competence.

The responsibilities placed by the United Nations on your Council, as the administrative and legal authority for Namibia until it attains independence, are grave and considerable. This Council has lived up to those responsibilities, has borne them capably and fulfilled them faithfully. Namibia is now preparing to welcome the sun of freedom, which has been long absent from it, but which was certain to rise again. The militant people of Namibia, under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) constitute one of the most splendid examples of the will of indomitable peoples. Their struggle will remain an outstanding sign on the path to national liberation in every time and place.

Our observance of Namibia Day this year is different from past observances and has an importance that distinguishes it from them all. It comes after the independence of Namibia, which we hope will continue as decreed until Namibia attains its full independence and its people enjoy their full freedom. We passionately await that day when Namibia will join us as a sovereign State and full Member in this international Organization. We hope also that the next step will be the extirpation of the régime of racial discrimination in South Africa itself, so that the black citizens of South Africa can enjoy a free and dignified life in their country and exercise all their human and political rights fully, without restriction or discrimination.

Twenty-three years have passed since the adoption of the General Assembly resolution terminating South Africa's mandate for Namibia and making it a direct responsibility of the United Nations, and 11 years have passed since the adoption of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), containing the plan for the independence of Namibia.

The realization of Namibia's independence has been delayed all this time because of the racist régime in South Africa. The persistence of the people of Namibia in their struggle, which stemmed from their determination to attain their freedom, resulted in the defeat of that obdurate position of South Africa, making it realize finally that it must inevitably withdraw from Namibia and leave its people to determine their future themselves and build their country and future in accordance with their free will. However, we must emphasize here the necessity of not allowing South Africa to hinder the independence process through non-compliance with certain aspects of the plan. It is therefore necessary to guarantee the impartiality of the elections by ensuring the condition of complete secrecy, the neutrality of the media during the period of preparation for the elections and also the demobilization of the repressive Koevoet force and the South West Africa Territorial Force. It is also necessary to make sure that no one but the Namibians is allowed to participate in the elections, to repeal all discriminatory and restrictive legislation in Namibia and to eliminate ambiguities and loopholes from the two draft laws relating to the elections and to the Constituent Assembly. South Africa's neutrality during the election process is an essential condition for ensuring their soundness. Although it is inevitable that this process will lead to independence, South Africa may yet resort to any means in order to pre-determine the result of the elections. The Security Council is therefore called upon to monitor closely the independence process in order to ensure that it is completed as perfectly as possible.

As we reiterate our expression of great appreciation of the important role played by the United Nations towards the realization of the independence of Namibia, particularly the sustained efforts of the Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, his Special Representative, Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, and the late United Nations Commissioner for Namibia, Bernt Carlsson, we stress the necessity of the continued co-operation of all Member States with the United Nations and the continuation of their support for the Organization, so that the great humanitarian task which it has begun in Namibia may be completed.

In this regard, we can only express our appreciation and gratitude to all those working in Namibia and in the area of Namibia, civilians and military men, who are now playing their great historic role of United Nations supervision under the independence plan. My country is prepared to consider any request by the United Nations for assistance in achieving the full independence of Namibia. It was a small group of the best of our troops who had the honour of participating in this great effort through the United Nations Angola Verification Mission.

For the past two decades, Jordan has continued to affirm its full support for the independence of Namibia on the basis of preservation of its unity and regional security, as well as preservation of its natural resources. It has also continued to affirm the need for the immediate and complete withdrawal of all the forces of the South African Government, termination of its administration of the Territory of Namibia and the holding of public elections there under United Nations supervision, on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions and, in particular, Security Council resolution 435 (1978). This position of ours stemmed from our belief in the justice of the cause of the people of Namibia and their right to attain their freedom and live in dignity and security in their own independent State.

The stand taken by all States that believe in freedom and peace in support of the people of Namibia in their long struggle played a major role in bringing the date for Namibian independence nearer. The achievement of independence will be a victory for the will of the international community as represented in the resolutions of the United Nations, in addition to being a mighty victory for the people of Namibia themselves. In this connection, we must not omit to register our appreciation and support for the role of the front-line States, whose resolve did not weaken in the face of Sou h Africa's attacks. They remained constant in their efforts to support and assist the Namibian people by various means.

It is extremely important to stress here the fact that the détente which has taken place in international relations over the past few years has also facilitated arrival at an appropriate solution of the question of Namibia as desired by the international community. The improvement of the international climate resulting from the fact that the States of the world, particularly the major Powers, have turned from heated confrontation to calm dialogue, from doubt and fear to confidence and trust and from competition to co-operation is capable of achieving a great deal, particularly with regard to peaceful settlement of disputes. We hope that the positive effects of the new international détente may extend to other international disputes and problems.

10. H.E. Mr. Tadeusz Olechowski, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Polish People's Republic

[Original: English]

On the occasion of Namibia Day, we wish to raffirm our unequivocal support for the inalienable right of the Namibian people to self-determination and full independence. The United Nations plan contained in Security Council resolution 435 (1978) constitutes the basis for a peaceful settlement of this problem.

We wish also to confirm our support for the South West Africa People's Organization, the only legitimate representative of the Namibian people, whose efforts for many years to achieve Namibia's independence have gained recognition and support throughout the world. Poland greatly appreciates the United Nations activities aimed at bringing about the independence of Namibia.

As a member of the United Nations Council for Namibia and in accordance with the spirit of the Geneva cease-fire agreement, Poland supports all necessary steps to make the peaceful process in south-west Africa successful and irreversible. Polish soldiers are actively participating in the peace-keeping forces of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group.

We express the hope that accomplishment of the present peace process in Namibia will lead to the long awaited settlement of the Namibian question and to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

We wish the heroic Namibian people an early fulfilment of their aspirations for an independent and sovereign Namibia and the earliest arrival of the day when we all can welcome it among the members of the United Nations.

11. H.E. Mr. Ho-Joong, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea

[Original: English]

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Korea, I wish to express our continued support for the Namibian people who have fought under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization against South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia.

I am happy to note that the Namibia Day of this year has particular significance, as the Namibian independence process is well under way with the aid of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in accordance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

Looking forward to seeing Namibia taking its rightful place in the comity of independent nations through free and fair elections, I urge that the international community intensify moral and material assistance for the Namibian people and that the United Nations make sustained efforts to ensure the earliest achievement of genuine independence of Namibia.

I wish to reaffirm that the Korean Government will continue to support all forms of United Nations assistance programmes for Namibia. We will also co-operate closely with other countries in supporting the Namibian people in their independence and development. Finally, I would like to pay high tribute to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations Council for Namibia, the Special Representative for Namibia and UNTAG, for their untiring efforts and devotion to achieve a free and independent Namibia.

12. H.E. Mr. Ali Ahmed Sahloul, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan

[Original: English]

On this solemn occasion when the United Nations commemorates Namibia Day, the Government and people of the Sudan would like to pay tribute to the United Nations Council for Namibia for its continuous contribution to the cause of the Namibian people.

The past year was one of important developments in Namibia. The agreement to the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and the consequent launching of the United Nations plan for Namibia's transition to independence are indeed landmarks in the history of Namibia. But we observe with grave concern the attempts of the Pretoria régime to manipulate the implementation of the plan to ensure its hegemony over Namibia even after independence.

Of crucial importance are the forthcoming elections in November. The international community must closely monitor the progress of Namibia's transition to independence, and the United Nations and the Security Council must fully undertake their responsibilities and exercise their authority to stop South Africa's manipulation of the elections and guarantee a free and fair electoral process. This is the right of the people of Namibia and a duty of the international community.

The Government and people of the Sudan reiterate their support for the people of Namibia and, on this solemn occasion, salute their commitment to their just cause and pledge their continuous support.

13. H.E. Mr. Farouk Al-Shara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]

I wish, on the occasion of Namibia Day, to reaffirm the solidarity of the Syrian Arab people with the just struggle of the people of Namibia under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization against the South African apartheid régime and with a view to the completion of the last phases of their struggle to attain freedom and independence.

The racist Pretoria régime would not have been able to maintain its illegal occupation of Namibia and hold out its challenge to the will of the international community and the United Nations throughout the past period had it not been for the unlimited political, economic and military support that it received from imperialist, colonialist and Zionist forces.

The celebration of Namibia Day is a call to all freedom-, peace- and justice-loving forces and peoples to support the people of Namibia and back their just struggle in this important historic transition stage through which it is passing in order to attain its right to self-determination and independence.

On this occasion, we wish to express our condemnation of the grave infractions perpetrated by the South African racist régime in order to hinder the implementation of the independence plan by its refusal to comply with major provisions of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and its failure to prepare the necessary circumstances for the holding of free and impartial elections, the timetable for which is scheduled to commence on 1 April 1989, under Security Council resolution 629 (1989) of 16 January 1989.

The United Nations plan is set forth in Security Council resolution 435 (1978) within the basic framework for arrival at a settlement of the question of Namibia and the achievement of independence without delay, and the international community must obtain full compliance with it on the part of the racist South African régime.

Opposition to the policy of apartheid and racist régimes is a duty incumbent upon mankind as a whole. In condemning apartheid, we in the Syrian Arab Republic know from the Zionist racist nature the extent of injustice wrought by racist régimes, in particular Israel and South Africa.

We are certain that however grave the infractions which the Pretoria régime commits, it will not be able to vanquish the will of the people of Namibia, resolutely bent on the liberation of their homeland, the exercise of their right to self-determination and the achievement of their independence.

14. H.E. Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand

[Original: English]

After years of confrontation and considerable bloodshed, Thailand welcomes the commencement of the implementation of the United Nations independence plan for Namibia on 1 April 1989, in accordance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978). It also hopes that, for the benefit of all people in the region, some remaining difficulties in the process of implementation of the plan can be resolved and favourable conditions can be created to enable the holding of free and fair elections in Namibia in November according to schedule.

On this solemn occasion, Thailand would like to extend to the Namibian people and their sole and authentic representative, the South West Africa People's Organization, its expression of goodwill and support for their struggle for the

inalienable right to self-determination and independence. Thailand hopes that they can realize their aspiration towards freedom, peace and prosperity in the near future. Thailand will do its utmost to support them to achieve their goal.

Thailand would also like to express profound appreciation to the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Council for Namibia, for its determination to bring about a just and early solution to the Namibian question. The United Nations should be applauded for its constructive role in the implementation of this regional settlement and its peace-keeping mission in Namibia, the United Nations Transition Assistance Group, certainly has Thailand's support for its noble task.

15. H.E. Mr. Barrios Tassano, Minister for External Relations of Uruguay

[Original: Spanish]

I have the honour to address you in connection with the observance of Namibia Day on 26 August.

During this year of 1989, we have witnessed important steps towards the attainment of full implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), which constitutes the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia.

My country has followed with the greatest interest this slow, conflict-ridden and at times painful process. It has expressed its satisfaction at the signing of the Brazzaville Protocol and the bilateral agreements that gave rise to it. It has also supported, within the traditional framework of its policy of peaceful settlement of disputes, the deployment of the two United Nations forces in the area responsible for observing on the spot that the agreements signed are strictly complied with. It has also expressed its concern at the armed clashes that took place at the beginning of April on the border between Angola and Namibia.

Nevertheless, Uruguay awaits the sovereign expression, overcoming all the obstacles to this transition, of the views of the people of Namibia through the election to take place in November.

At these moments of supreme importance for Africa and for the world, the entire international community must express in the most decisive terms its support for the self-determination of the Namibian people.

Likewise, my Government wishes to convey to you the support and gratitude of Uruguay for the work of the United Nations Council for Namibia, as the legitimate authority recognized by the international community to administer the Territory of Namibia, especially in everything relating to the measures adopted for the purpose of preserving the country's natural resources.

Lastly, Uruguay calls for the elections next November to be carried out unimpeded, so as to ensure the free expression of its views by the Namibian people, and expresses the hope that in the near future we may all be able to feel that we are equal partners in a world without colonialism and without apartheid.

16. H.E. Mr. Enrique Tejera Paris, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Venezuela

[Original: Spanish]

In commemorating Namibia Day, I wish, on behalf of the people and Government of Venezuela to congratulate the United Nations Council for Namibia for its dedication in carrying out the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly, and at the same time to reiterate our firm support for the Council. In discharging the duties incumbent upon it as legal Administering Authority for the Territory, the Council has promoted the well-being of the Namibian people and has sought to advance the cause of their lawful aspiration to self-determination and independence.

More than 20 years ago, the United Nations terminated South Africa's mandate over Namibia, placed the Territory under its own responsibility and established the United Nations Council for Namibia as a demonstration of the commitment and resolve of the international community to support the inalienable right of the Namibian people to choose their future. The United Nations plan approved by the Security Council in its resolution 435 (1978) constitutes the only accepted and reliable basis for the independence of Namibia. The parties concerned have seen it as such, and its implementation gives us grounds for optimism regarding the Territory's immediate future. We are confident that the process now under way towards independence will continue on course in line with the international will from which it draws its support, with full guarantees that the Namibian people will be able to exercise their right to sovereignty with no impediment of any kind.

In expressing our firm hope for the success of this process, Venezuela reiterates its unswerving solidarity with your noble goal, the independence of Namibia.

D. Specialized agencies

Mr. Edouard Saouma, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization or the United Nations

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the observance of Namibia Day on 26 August, I wish to reaffirm the commitment of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), within its sphere of competence, to the efforts of the United Nations Council for Namibia and the international community in achieving the self-determination and independence of Namibia.

As the first United Nations agency to admit Namibia to full membership, FAO continues its readiness to provide within the limits of its resources all possible assistance to Namibia during its transition to independence and to support the quest of its people as they strive to achieve economic and social development.

FAO activities in support of the people of Namibia cover a wide range, both outside and within the context of the United Nations Nationhood Programme for Namibia established by the Council. These activities include sectoral surveys, policy analysis, assistance to the refugee community and training in support of food production. A major objective of FAO efforts has been to build up a cadre of trained people and skilled workers capable of formulating and managing agricultural policies and programmes in an independent Namibia.

I wish to assure you that FAO will continue to strengthen its activities in promoting the welfare of the Namibian people and in meeting their development needs.

E. Solidarity groups and non-governmental organizations

1. World Federation of Trade Unions

[Original: English]

On the occasion of Namibia Day, the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) assures all Namibian workers and people of its firm solidarity in the struggle to be granted their legitimate and inalienable right to self-determination and long overdue national independence.

The recent developments in Namibia have raised the hopes of the oppressed peoples in southern Africa in particular, and the international community in general.

WFTU has been following with interest the unfolding events, which culminated in the signing of the December 1988 agreement for the independence of Namibia.

The historic turning-point in the developments in Namibia has been reached as a result of the united patriotic struggle of the Namibian people, led by the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

WFTU, however, is concerned that the racist régime is scheming in various ways to frustrate the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) on Namibia's independence. There are disturbing reports of mischievous attempts by the rulers of apartheid South Africa covertly to influence momentous developments in Namibia in their favour. Therefore, WFTU calls upon the United Nations Transition Assistance Group in Namibia to ensure that the transition programme is strictly adhered to, despite the machinations of the racist régime.

WFTU notes with satisfaction the current efforts being made by the United Nations Special Representative in Namibia, for the safe return of Namibian refugees. All Namibians based outside the country should be allowed to return to Namibia with minimum delay so that they can fully participate in the forthcoming elections.

WFTU is most concerned over the ruthless repression of trade unions in Namibia, which continues unabated. In this connection, WFTU calls upon the trade unionists all over the world to give maximum support and assistance to the workers

and people of Namibia in order to promote the emergence of a strong democratic nation and to support the strengthening of the National Union of Namibian Workers, which will be an essential part of the social infrastructure of an independent country.

On this occasion dedicated to the people of Namibia, WFTU extends also to the United Nations Council for Namibia its appreciation for the important work performed by the Council over the years, in pursuit of the mandate entrusted to it by the United Nations General Assembly.

WFTU wishes to express once again its firm solidarity with workers and people of Namibia, under the leadership of SWAPO, and reiterates its full support for them in their just struggle against racism, apartheid, colonialism and for the establishment of an independent sovereign State of Namibia.

2. Asian-African People's Solidarity Committee

[Original: English]

On the occasion of Namibia Day, the Asian-African People's Solidarity Committee is hereby transmitting its cordial greetings and best wishes for success in your highly responsible work.

The Bulgarian public is following closely the struggle of the Namibian people and its leader, the South West Africa People's Organization, for freedom and independence, and has always rendered its unreserved support to this struggle. We value highly the contribution of the United Nations Council for Namibia in support of the Namibian people.

We are convinced that in line with Security Council resolution 435 (1978), all freedom- and peace-loving people in the world will very soon celebrate the establishment of a free and independent Namibia.

3. H.E. Mr. Fouad El Bedewy, Secretary-General of the African Society

[Original: English]

I was asked by the participants in the official and popular celebration of Namibia on 26 August (representatives of the diplomatic corps, African liberation movements, the Movement of Non-aligned Countries, the information media and African student unions) to express to Your Excellency their high appreciation of the role of the United Nations and your personal efforts vis-à-vis the question of Namibia and supervision of measures leading to Namibia's independence in accordance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978). They request you to increase the United Nations presence in the territory in order to enhance supervision of the implementation of the plan and to confront difficulties and obstacles created by the authorities in Pretoria. They likewise call upon you to increase and intensify

international pressure on the South African Government to halt acts of violence and forgery, and to implement the Security Council resolution and the New York agreement of December 1988 fully and honourably.

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UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA

SPECIAL PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA, HELD AT WINDHOEK FROM 9 TO 11 APRIL 1990

Messages received by the President of the Council*

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* Messages are being issued in accordance with an announcement made by the President of the United Nations Council for Namibia at the 517th meeting on 26 August 1988.

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INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with its programme of work for 1990, contained in its annual report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, 1/ the United Nations Council for Namibia held special plenary meetings at Windhoek from 9 to 11 April 1990. The purpose of the meetings was to review the activities which the Council had undertaken in fulfilment of its mandate as the legal Administering Authority for Namibia until independence, and to formulate recommendations to the Assembly concerning the dissolution of the Council and related matters arising as a consequence of Namibia's accession to independence on 21 March 1990.

2. On this historic occasion, the President of the Council received the messages reproduced below.

MESSAGES RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

A. Heads of State or Government

1. H.E. General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

[Original: English]

On behalf of the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I wish to extend warm felicitations to the United Nations Council for Namibia on the occasion of its special meeting at Windhoek, Republic of Namibia.

The Council's meeting on the soil of an independent Namibia marks, in a very symbolic way, the fulfilment of the sacred mandate entrusted to it by the international community. Namibia's independence on 21 March 1990 was the culmination of the gigantic effort made by the people of Namibia to secure their freedom and dignity.

The Council can take justifiable pride in the very positive and historic role it played in facilitating Namibia's struggle for independence. As a founding member of the Council, following its establishment by General Assembly resolution 2248 (S-V) of 19 May 1967, the Federal Republic of Nigeria is indeed proud to have been closely and actively associated with the work of the Council over the past 23 years.

The Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria sincerely congratulate the Council for a job well done and wish the special meeting at Windhoek successful deliberations.

2. H.E. Mr. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, President of the United Republic of Tanzania

[Original: English]

On behalf of the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania, and on my own behalf, I wish to extend to you, Mr. President, and to the members of the United Nations Council for Namibia, our most sincere appreciation for a job well done.

Ever since its establishment, less than 23 years ago, the Council has been a dependable ally of the front-line States and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) in promoting vital international support to the cause of liberating Namibia from the clutches of racial and colonial oppression. The Council's steadfastness in constantly sensitizing the international community to the realities and needs of the Namibian situation provided much-needed impetus to all those who bore the brunt of the armed struggle against the racist colonialist Power.

That Namibia is finally free, which enables your meeting to take place at liberated Windhoek, is a fitting tribute to the success of the Council's work, in co-operation with SWAPO, the front-line States and all those who participated in the struggle for Namibia's independence. On this historic day when the Council's role formally comes to a close, it is my pleasant duty to call upon States members of the Council to remain ready to provide the young nation of Namibia with such assistance as it might need to establish its instruments of State and nationhood, so as to enable it to take its rightful place in the comity of nations and contribute its share along with other free States in making the world a better place for all mankind.

B. Ministers for Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mr. Francisco Rezek, Minister for External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil

[Original: English]

The convening at Windhoek of the special plenary meetings of the United Nations Council for Namibia is cause for great satisfaction to the Brazilian Government, which has always accorded special relevance to the work of this body in the search for a fair solution to the legitimate aspirations of the Namibian people. The Brazilian people and Government have not ceased, throughout the years, to show their solidarity with the people of Namibia in their struggle for independence, and Brazil is proud to have co-operated with the Council in its activities towards the fulfilment of that goal.

The independence of Namibia proclaimed on 2 March represents the culmination of a process in which the role played by the United Nations and the Council was fundamental. Today, all Member States that supported those efforts rejoice over the long-awaited event. Brazil is particularly satisfied to see the emergence to international life of another neighbour in the community of South Atlantic countries, with which we intend to maintain a constructive relationship, with a view to preserving peace and strengthening the links of regional co-operation.

The Brazilian Government congratulates the Council for the historic work which it undertook.

C. United Nations and related organizations

1. Secretary-General of the United Nations

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the final special plenary meetings of the United Nations Council for Namibia, I would like to extend my congratulations to all members of the Council for the dedicated manner in which they carried out the responsibilities entrusted to them by the General Assembly.

From the time that it was established in 1967, the Council was engaged in a broad range of functions and responsibilities aimed at ensuring Namibia's accession to independence, as well as protecting the interests of the people of Namibia in all international forums. The Council has discharged its duties with steadfast devotion. The initiatives taken by it will, I am sure, assist the Namibian people in no small way as they begin the important task of national reconstruction and development.

I share with all members of the Council the sense of profound satisfaction felt by the entire international community at the historic achievement by the people of Namibia of national self-determination and independence. In facing the challenges of nationhood, and in the social and economic development of their beautiful country, the people and Government of Namibia may be assured of the full co-operation and assistance of the United Nations.

2. H.E. Mr. Tesfaye Tadesse, President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

In recalling the unique responsibility of the United Nations in the advancement of the aspirations of the Namibian people for independence, peace and justice, I wish to pay tribute to the United Nations Council for Namibia for its constant efforts for more than two decades to help to protect the rights of the people of Namibia and to prepare them for the road to self-determination and independence, all of which have facilitated the successful implementation of the United Nations plan for Namibia. On this occasion, I wish, on behalf of the members of the Security Council, to express appreciation to the States members of the United Nations Council for Namibia for their dedication and contribution in helping to bring about a free, sovereign and independent Namibia.

The many initiatives undertaken by the Security Council and the resolutions and decisions it has adopted in order to effect the peaceful transfer of power within a unified, free and independent Namibia are well known to all.

The successful implementation of the United Nations settlement plan for Namibia as contained in Security Council resolution 435 (1978) of 29 September 1978 culminating in genuine independence for the people of Namibia is a remarkable achievement for which the international community can claim justifiable pride.

In this respect, the Secretary-General deserves our warm tribute for his unswerving commitment to the cause of the independence of Namibia and for the wisdom with which he handled various obstacles, in his endeavour to ensure the implementation of the independence plan. In reiterating the gratitude of the members of the Security Council to the Special Representative, the Force Commander and the valiant members of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) for the exemplary manner in which they carried out their responsibilities, it is fitting to recall the multi-faceted nature that has characterized the United Nations approach towards ensuring that Namibians would exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

The Government and people of an independent Namibia will now face the challenges of nation-building and should be able to rely on the continued support of the entire international community in connection with their efforts to achieve successful economic and social development. In this regard, the Security Council, by its resolution 643 (1989) of 31 October 1989, made an urgent appeal to Member States, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to extend, in co-ordination with the Secretary-General, generous financial, material and technical support to the Namibian people, both during the transitional period and after independence.

While expressing our satisfaction at the significant contribution of the United Nations Council for Namibia and awaiting the moment to welcome Namibia as the one hundred and sixtieth Member of the United Nations, allow me once more, on behalf of the members of the Security Council, to extend our heartfelt good wishes to the people of Namibia and their leadership in consolidating their hard-won nationhood in peace and prosperity.

3. H.E. Major-General Joseph Nanven Garba, President of the General Assembly

[Original: English]

On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations General Assembly and on my own behalf, I have the distinct honour and pleasure to send to you, Mr. President, and members of the United Nations Council for Namibia, this message of congratulations and best wishes. On this joyous occasion and as you wind up your affairs following the fulfilment of the mandate entrusted to the Council under General Assembly resolution 2248 (S-V) of 19 May 1967, we all join you in celebrating Namibia's independence.

When Namibia became independent on 21 March 1990, that occasion singularly marked the culmination of all efforts undertaken by the United Nations and particularly your esteemed Council to bring to reality the hopes and aspirations of the entire people of that country. Namibia's independence is, therefore, a victory for your Council as much as it is a victory for the international community as a whole.

I wish to seize this opportunity to pay special tribute to you and to those distinguished gentlemen who served as United Nations Commissioner for Namibia at different times, particularly the late Bernt Carlsson, who gave his life in the discharge of his duties. My congratulations also go to the staff of your Council.

I believe I speak on behalf of States Members of the General Assembly when I say that your Council has every reason to be proud of the way it has conducted its affairs. You have, indeed, earned the gratitude of the people of Namibia and of the international community. Thanks for a job well done.

Please convey to your Council members my personal best wishes and those of the States Members of the General Assembly.

4. H.E. Mrs. Absa Claude Diallo, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

[Original: English]

On behalf of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I have the honour and the pleasure to extend our most sincere congratulations to the President and the members of the United Nations Council for Namibia on the historic occasion of its special session at Windhoek, in free and independent Namibia.

For many years, the Council was prevented by the South African authorities from establishing its presence on Namibian territory and from carrying out its mandated duties as the Administering Authority for Namibia. Yet, with steadfastness, wisdom and skill, the Council continued to hold aloft the flame of international legality as expressed in the Charter of the United Nations and resolutions of the Security Council and of the General Assembly. The United Nations Council for Namibia became the guardian of the aspirations of the Namibian people for freedom and independence and for an end to the occupation of its land and the violation of its most fundamental human and national rights. Through the Council's persistent action in defining the principles for a settlement and mobilizing the international community in its support, the question of Namibia was kept in the foreground of international concern through its darkest hours.

The fact that Namibia successfully and peacefully completed the transition to independence and achieved its long awaited freedom on 21 March, under the auspices of the United Nations, is not only a great victory for the Namibian people and for peace and justice in the region, it is also a vindication of the role played for so many years by the Council and its President, as well as the competent and dedicated staff, under the leadership of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It is a clear demonstration of the increasingly important and recognized role of the United Nations in helping to bring about the peaceful settlement of regional conflicts in various parts of the world. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People fervently hopes that the example thereby set will provide inspiration and guidance to the international community in advancing towards the settlement of the last issue on the agenda of the United Nations which has been there since its inception, namely, the question of Palestine.

5. H.E. Mr. Tesfaye Tadesse, Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

[Original: English]

The meeting of the United Nations Council for Namibia at Windhoek, the capital of independent Namibia, is indeed a triumph for justice, freedom and international peace, and especially a triumph for the Council, whose relentless quest over two decades for the freedom of Namibia has culminated in this tremendous achievement.

In recalling this long and arduous task, I note that the General Assembly established the Council at its fifth special session by resolution 2248 (S-V) of 19 May 1967. That historic resolution was passed one year after the General Assembly had terminated South Africa's Mandate over the Territory. In establishing the Council, the Assembly instructed it, among other things, to administer the Territory until independence and to transfer all powers to the people of the Territory upon the declaration of independence. Owing to the relentless pursuit of its mandate, the Council has, through its wisdom and tenacity, completed today this important task of paramount concern to all peace-loving peoples.

The Council has campaigned steadfastly over the past 20 years to achieve independence for the people of Namibia. Despite the many difficulties it faced, the Council mounted an international campaign to foster international awareness of the Namibian question. During the course of those long and difficult years, it succeeded in publicizing the Namibian cause world wide. It made international public opinion sensitive to the conditions of the Namibian people and, through its initiatives, it rallied international support for Namibia.

The Council's laudable efforts included the holding of meetings wherever it could advance the Namibian cause. Courageously and with unshakable faith in the righteousness of its cause, the Council even held a meeting at Luanda at a time when tensions in southern Africa were at their height owing to the systematic destabilization campaigns conducted by South Africa against all front-line States.

The Council, in compliance with its mandate, represented Namibians in their quest for nationhood. Owing to the relentless struggle waged by the people of Namibia and to the international support for that struggle galvanized by the Council, this dynamic body of the United Nations, gained full membership in many regional and international organizations at the behest of the then Territory of Namibia. The Council was always present to defend the inalienable rights of the Namibian people.

The fact that the Council is meeting on Namibian soil, at Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, is a tribute to its sagacity and tenacious commitment to an undertaking fraught with immeasurable difficulties. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples pays tribute to the selfless task accomplished by the Council. The Special Committee itself has been vitally involved and instrumental in the decolonization of many former Non-Self-Governing Territories. The decolonization of Namibia has always been among the most important issues on its agenda.

The Special Committee salutes the people of Namibia on their accession to independence and takes this opportunity to rededicate its efforts to attain the General Assembly's goal of complete and total decolonization by the year 2000 in the remaining Territories.

Namibia's arrival on the international scene as a full-fledged member of the international community is indeed an inspiration and a beacon to all remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. It is an honour and a distinct pleasure to render

homage to the Council on this historic occasion for having successfully concluded the mandate entrusted to it by the international community of nations.

6. Special Committee against Apartheid

[Original: English]

The United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid wishes to express its gratitude to the United Nations Council for Namibia for inviting it to participate in these special plenary meetings which are being held on the now independent soil of Namibia.

The Special Committee extends once again its warmest congratulations to the Namibian people and to Mr. Sam Nujoma, their President, for the independence of Namibia which they achieved after a long and difficult struggle. This victory, which is an important landmark in the process of decolonization, is the culmination of the sacrifices made by the Namibians to bring about an end to South Africa's illegal and brutal occupation.

Namibia's transition to nationhood is also particularly significant as it points out the inevitability of the success of people fighting for their freedom and independence. Moreover, it underlines the positive role that can be played by the international community and the weight of its collective will. The task of mobilizing the international community for the independence of Namibia was one of the main aspects of the great contribution brought to this cause by the Council.

It being a concrete example of a successful solution reached by means of peaceful negotiations, Namibia's independence will enable all South Africans, and especially the white minority, to reflect further on the steps to be taken for the eradication of the apartheid system. This example appears to be particularly relevant in the context of the changes that have occurred in South Africa during the last two months. For instance, by establishing a multiparty system, by guaranteeing fundamental human rights and by forbidding discrimination, the new Constitution adopted by the Namibian Constituent Assembly could serve as a model in a new South Africa.

The need to encourage the ongoing process towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict should not obliterate the fact, however, that the new measures adopted by the South African régime can in no way be regarded as the "profound and irreversible changes" stated in the General Assembly declaration on South Africa adopted in December 1989. Therefore, the international community is expected to step up its support to the opponents of apartheid and to use concerted and effective measures in order to apply increased pressure against the South African régime. The Special Committee will pursue its endeavours for the implementation of this declaration by appealing to all countries not to relax existing measures and to maintain their policy of sanctions.

Given the historical bonds existing between the courageous people of Namibia and South Africa, the Special Committee has always closely aligned itself with the

work and objectives of the Council. The Committee's support for the Namibian people will not falter as Namibia faces a new challenge of reconstruction and development in this post-independence period. The future of Namibia, which suffered for so long under the burden of colonial domination, is also an international responsibility; and as it enters its first days of independence, Namibia has an extraordinary claim upon the assistance of the international community. The Special Committee wishes to pay tribute to the Council, which fulfilled entirely its responsibilities and contributed greatly to the achievement of Namibia's independence.

7. Executive-Director of the United Nations Children's Fund

[Original: English]

I am most pleased to address a message to this august council at the joyful and indeed momentous occasion that has prompted your gathering in Windhoek.

Your plenary meeting here occurs at the culmination of over two decades of protracted systematic efforts to resolve one of the most intractable complexities of modern international history. The freeing of Namibia through peaceful negotiations has been an achievement that will go down in the annals of history of international co-operation as one of the most exemplary of the latter part of the twentieth century.

Over the past decade, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has worked closely with Namibians in exile both in Angola and Zambia. It is indeed a significant achievement to note that, among Namibians in exile, immunization coverage among children and expectant mothers was universal and malnutrition and disease levels among the refugee population in the Angolan and Zambian camps was among the lowest in Africa. UNICEF is proud to have been a part of this struggle to protect the lives of children, women and other vulnerable groups in exile.

UNICEF, with its special concern for issues related to children, is most encouraged that the Government of Namibia has announced that its priorities for this first year of independence will be health, education and agriculture. It is our firm hope and fondest wish for a strong future for Namibia that, in each of these three areas, the needs of all Namibians will be addressed in this first formative year. Thus, in health, we look for a strengthened primary health-care system, with special emphasis on maternal and child health. It is most gratifying that an expanded programme of immunization has already begun - belatedly joining the Africa-wide effort to achieve in each country by December 1990 the goals of immunizing at least 75 per cent of children under one year of age against the six main child-killing diseases. Similarly, it bodes well for the future that plans are being solidified for basic maternal and child health training and that "Facts for Life" and other health education materials are already being used. We anticipate the country's reunification of fragmented health services and their extension to rural areas, with massive training of middle and basic level workers, and the building and strengthening of health infrastructure throughout the country.

In education, again, UNICEF is encouraged by the prospects for education for all Namibians within a discreet time-frame. The World Conference on Education for All, which gathered the world's leading education experts and policy makers in March 1990 at Jomtien, Thailand, placed a high priority on universal primary education by the year 2000 as the cutting edge for broader education goals. In Namibia, might primary education - a defined level of literacy, numeracy and basic life skills - be achievable for virtually all children during this decade? If effective groundwork is done in this first year of independence, we at UNICEF are convinced that this is an achievable goal - and one that will play a major role in building a strong future for Namibia. Your population must interact and compete in a complex world and, like all countries, yours needs an educated populace to keep pace. Surely we cannot afford to deny an education to the potential leaders of tomorrow.

In agriculture, the emphasis on subsistence farming and building the nation's capacity to feed itself is a most positive direction. The protection of household food security is clearly of primary importance to the health and well-being of children. The nutrition of children must be a serious concern in designing plans for the future of agriculture in Namibia.

While addressing ourselves to these important concerns we should not forget the underlying issue of peace. If peace had not prevailed over the forces of war and destruction here in Namibia this gathering could not be held in Windhoek today. The United Nations and the Office of the Secretary-General in particular should therefore be commended for their tireless work towards lasting peace for Namibia. Equally important are the Governments that were also critical to this realization of peace. We join with those who commend them.

8. Director-General of the International Labour Organisation

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the meeting of the United Nations Council for Namibia to be held at Windhoek from 9 to 11 April 1990, I am pleased to be able to place on record my appreciation for the years of active co-operation between the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Council in joint efforts for the benefit of the people of Namibia during the period that preceded Namibia's attainment of independence on 21 March 1990. I am mindful in particular of the role played by the Council in assisting with the representation of Namibia as a State member of ILO since 1978 at successive sessions of the International Labour Conference and at African regional conferences of ILO, as well as of the substantive contribution that has been facilitated by the Council and the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia in the execution of projects in the fields of technical co-operation within the competence of ILO, especially those concerning vocational training, vocational rehabilitation, labour administration, employment promotion and manpower planning, as well as in the combating of discrimination in employment and occupations.

This joint endeavour has provided an invaluable basis for the future co-operation of ILO with the Government of an independent Namibia, in order to assist in overcoming the effects of apartheid as applied in the past and in contributing to the welfare and development of the people of Namibia from now on.

9. Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

[Original: English]

On the historic occasion of the convening by the United Nations Council for Namibia of special plenary meetings in Namibia, I wish to take the opportunity to extend our congratulations to the Council and share with it the joy of Namibia's achievement of independence on 21 March 1990.

I acknowledge also the valuable contribution of your Council to this achievement, particularly the dedication and commitment with which it implemented programmes and carried out activities in fulfilling its mandate entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution 2248 (S-V) of 19 March 1967.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has followed with great interest and satisfaction the efforts of your Council in mobilizing international support for the independence of Namibia, representing Namibia at international forums and implementing a wide range of assistance programmes for Namibians.

We are pleased to have contributed to these efforts through carrying out sectoral surveys, policy analyses, training, food production and humanitarian assistance, both within and outside the context of the Nationhood Programme established by your Council.

As the first United Nations agency to admit Namibia to full membership, I wish to reaffirm the commitment of FAO, within the sphere of its competence and resources, to provide all possible assistance to an independent Namibia in its efforts to achieve economic and social development.

10. Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

[Original: English]

On behalf of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and in my own name, I extend heartfelt congratulations to the United Nations Council for Namibia on the successful accomplishment of the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in 1967.

UNESCO is proud to have been associated with the Council in its various endeavours to ensure the enjoyment by the Namibian people of their fundamental

rights. The organization is particularly gratified to have had the opportunity to collaborate with you in the implementation of the Namibian Nationhood Programme, designed to prepare Namibians to assume their rightful responsibilities upon independence.

As your Council meets at Windhoek on this historic occasion, I should like to express my admiration for the far-sightedness, realism, courage and tenacity that have characterized the Council's work over the past two decades, which have enabled it to overcome so many daunting obstacles on the path to the attainment of this noble goal.

11. Secretary-General of the International Civil Aviation Organization

[Original: English]

As the United Nations Council for Namibia convenes for the first time on Namibian soil in special plenary session, permit me to convey best wishes on this auspicious occasion and the assurance of the continuing contribution of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to the peaceful development of Namibia. ICAO has participated actively in the Nationhood Programme for Namibia and will continue to assist in the safe and orderly development of civil aviation in the region, recognizing the important role of air transport in economic and social development.

12. Director-General of the World Health Organization

[Original: English]

On behalf of the World Health Organization (WHO) and its 166 member States, I wish to express my appreciation to the United Nations Council for Namibia for the role it played in the dramatic struggle of the Namibian people leading to the establishment of the independent State of Namibia.

I wish to reiterate to the Government of Namibia our profound commitment to work with the health authorities of the Government to promote better health for all Namibians.

The preamble to the Constitution of WHO, which entered into force in April 1948, proclaims that the achievement of any State in the promotion and protection of health is of value to all. We are excited to see this goal now to be set for the people of Namibia.

I assure the people and the Government of Namibia that WHO will respond rapidly and efficiently to requests for co-operation aimed at strengthening the broad range of health care and environmental protection activities, in particular, the primary health-care system in Namibia.

WHO will work with the Government and in close harmony with other members of the United Nations family to ensure that the total development process advances towards improving the level of health of individuals - women, men and children - of communities and of the entire Namibian society. The challenge to both Namibia and WHO is unprecedented. I am confident that we will confront that challenge in a spirit of co-operation and mutual trust and respect.

WHO stands ready as a strong partner to co-operate with the people of Namibia, and we look forward to welcoming soon this new State as a member of our organization.

13. Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

[Original: English]

It is an honour and privilege for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to be given this opportunity to address a message to the United Nations Council for Namibia on this historic occasion. Over the past two decades, the Council played a critical and strategic role in the process of guiding Namibia along the path to independence. As a member of the United Nations family, UNIDO fully subscribes to the tribute paid to the Council by the Secretary-General when presiding over Namibia's independence ceremony. As the Secretary-General pointed out, independence is a triumph for Namibia and for the principles that are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. It is our sincere wish that the fruitful co-operation that has always existed between the Council and UNIDO will be developed and expanded in order to support the progress and sustain the development of an independent Namibia. UNIDO takes great pleasure in congratulating you, Mr. President, and the distinguished members of the Council on the successful completion of the mandate entrusted to the Council under General Assembly resolution 2248 (S-V) of 19 May 1967. Accept, Mr. President, our best wishes for every success in the deliberations of the forthcoming special plenary meetings of the Council.

14. Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency

[Original: English]

Thank you for your message of 31 March 1990 informing me that the United Nations Council for Namibia will hold special plenary meetings in Namibia during the second week of April. I would be grateful if you would convey to the Council my appreciation for the way in which it has represented the interests of Namibia in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) since Namibia became one of our member States in 1983. I have now had the pleasure to send a message of congratulation to the President of Namibia and of drawing his attention to the fact that his country has belonged to the Agency for the last seven years. I realize that this is only a small part of what has been done for Namibia by the Council but it is a part which is very significant to IAEA.

D. Intergovernmental organizations

1. Current Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries

[Original: English]

The special plenary meeting of the United Nations Council for Namibia, which is taking place following the proclamation of the independence of Namibia, offers me an opportunity to extend, on behalf of Yugoslavia and in my capacity as the current Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, most sincere congratulations to the Council on the contribution it has made to Namibia's attainment of independence.

From the time it was given the mandate by the world Organization in 1967 to administer the Territory of Namibia until its independence, the Council initiated and carried out numerous actions in an endeavour to contribute to the achievement of that objective. Today when, owing to the efforts made over the years by the States Members of the United Nations and by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries with which the Council co-operated in many respects, the United Nations plan for Namibia has been implemented and when freedom and independence have become a reality for its people, we must give credit to the Council for its tireless and devoted activity aimed at protecting the interests of Namibia and creating conditions for its further development.

At the same time, this contribution by the Council represents a victory of the principles the United Nations has stood for since it was founded, a great success and a shining example of co-operation of the entire international community.

The independence of this last major colonial Territory brings the long-standing process of decolonization almost to an end. At the same time, in southern Africa, where new positive processes have already begun, more favourable conditions and new opportunities are being created so that that part of the world too may be fully integrated into the current world democratic trends. We hope that in the near future, the peoples and all the citizens in that part of Africa will be able to enjoy free and unhampered development, with full respect for all human rights and their needs.

I wish to point out that the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries will, as always in the past, make its contribution to the achievement of this goal.

2. Current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity

[Original: Arabic]

At this decisive turning-point in the history of the fraternal people of Namibia, who are registering the birth of the independent State of Namibia, I am pleased to extend to you, Mr. President, on behalf of all of Africa, the most sincere congratulations on this great achievement.

While the dawning of freedom in struggling Namibia is but the fruit of the sacrifices and struggle of the heroic people of Namibia, under the leadership of its pioneer organization, the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), under the aware and profoundly wise direction of the tenacious militant Mr. Sam Nujoma, the independence of Namibia bears witness to the effective role and great effort undertaken by the United Nations in the achievement of this Territory's independence.

Namibia's independence constitutes a unique case, in which the United Nations has borne direct responsibility, as distinct from any other liberation cause espoused by the international Organization since its inception.

Since Namibia came under the Mandate of the League of Nations in the aftermath of the First World War, the international community has striven to preserve the political existence of Namibia, and, in 1946, the United Nations rejected an attempt to annex the Territory to South Africa. Again, in 1958, the international Organization rejected the idea of partition of the Territory.

History will also record that, in the mid-1960s, the United Nations rectified the international status of Namibia, when, on 27 October 1966, the General Assembly adopted its resolutions terminating South Africa's mandate over Namibia and placed the Territory under the responsibility of the United Nations. The text of that resolution stated explicitly that Namibia was a Territory having international status and that it should maintain that status until it reached independence. The adoption of this resolution was accompanied by the assumption of increased importance by the African liberation movement in Namibia, when, on 26 August 1969, it declared an armed struggle, along with political action. It was natural with these developments that the United Nations should recognize the legitimacy of the armed struggle waged by the people of Namibia since the mid-1960s against South Africa's occupation of the Territory.

At the same time, the United Nations registered a new kind of initiative on the path towards the triumph of legitimacy in Namibia by establishing institutional subsidiary organs to support the people of Namibia. At their head was the United Nations Council for Namibia, which was established at a special session of the General Assembly held in May 1967.

The United Nations established the Council as the legal Authority to administer the Territory until such time as the racist régime was eliminated and independence proclaimed.

Over the long span of 23 years, during which the Council held over 500 meetings, in which it sought to follow developments in the Territory and alert the international community to the plans of the racist régime, the Council also represented the Territory in international organizations and conferences, in order to protect the interests of our African people in Namibia.

The United Nations then moved to the stage of peaceful settlement of the question of Namibia, the groundwork for which was laid by Security Council resolution 385 (1976), of 30 January 1976. The Council affirmed the necessity of

enabling the people of Namibia freely to determine their own future through the holding of free elections under United Nations supervision in the Territory, to be preceded by a United Nations presence in Namibia so that its people could organize politically for participation in these elections. Security Council resolutions 431 (1978) and 432 (1978) were adopted on 27 July 1978. The first crystallized the peaceful settlement plan, and the second affirmed the necessity of protecting the territorial integrity and the national unity of Namibia by the reintegration of Walvis Bay within the territory. In the same year, in the face of South Africa's intransigence, the Security Council adopted resolution 435 (1978) on 29 September 1978. That is the resolution that laid down the final formula for the international plan for peaceful settlement.

In the face of United Nations adherence to the peaceful settlement plan, the resistance of SWAPO, the support of world public opinion and African public opinion for the cause of the people of Namibia, the emergence of new international developments, in particular, the entente between the two great Powers and their agreement on finding a peaceful settlement for regional problems and issues threatening world peace, the Government of South Africa had no choice but to yield to international pressure. It consented, after much prevarication, to work for the implementation of the peaceful settlement plan for Namibian independence within the framework of rounds of quadripartite negotiations with Angola, Cuba and the United States of America, to settle the situation in southern Africa generally. On 22 December 1988, the agreement on arrangements for the peaceful settlement of the situation in southern Africa was concluded. The way was then open for the implementation of the stages of the settlement in accordance with a timetable that began on 1 April 1988 and ended with the declaration of independence on 21 March 1990.

The role assumed by the international community as a whole and the firm commitment and resolute support which it showed for the cause of freedom in Namibia is a unique experience of a salubrious phenomenon that has set its mark on the contemporary international political scene and is reflected in steadily increasing resort to international organizations as a working method on the world scale and in co-operation between the unitary components of the universal society.

This new feature is perhaps the first of the positive results of the abatement of the cold war and the termination of the age of international polarization from which mankind suffered for the past 40 years and which unleashed the whirlwinds of conflict, confrontation and delinquency.

We hope that the independence of Namibia will be the herald of a new age, an age in which a suitable climate will be created for waging the final battle aimed at putting a speedy end to apartheid and its practices, which are contrary to human rights, and the establishment of democracy and social well-being based on justice in South Africa.

We alert South Africa to the need to absorb the real lesson of Namibia's independence, on the one hand, and of the realities of the international situation, on the other. South Africa must speedily and immediately begin to implement the

resolutions of the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly, which reflect the will of the international community. Africa extends its hand to assist in the crystallization of the concept of a post-apartheid society, based on the ruins of racism and discrimination, in order to ensure a new future for the entire population of South Africa.

Namibian independence represents not only a victory for the struggle of the people of this country but also for independent Africa and for freedom- and peace-loving peoples throughout the world. On this occasion, we appeal to the international community to extend all necessary assistance to the people of Namibia in order to consolidate its independence. We also call upon the international community to extend all necessary assistance to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in order to facilitate the repatriation and rehabilitation of Namibian refugees. We also appeal to the international community to extend all necessary assistance to the young State of Namibia, including international support for projects and programmes aimed at reconstruction and the development of the economy for the well-being of the people of Namibia.

Africa today, more than at any time in the past, is absolutely convinced that the United Nations has been, and continues to be, an embodiment of a dream of mankind for the creation of a kind of international co-operation and complementarity whose purpose is to ensure the survival of mankind, prevent its extinction or the obliteration of its civilization and work for the promotion of peace, development and progress.

3. Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

[Original: English]

On 21 March 1990, the proud people of Namibia attained full sovereignty and independence, after a long and difficult struggle, under the outstanding leadership of President Sam Nujoma.

The advent of freedom for the Namibian people is as much an occasion for jubilation for them as it is for the international community in general, and the United Nations in particular.

The United Nations has a long history of close association with the question of Namibia. This question figured regularly on the agenda of the General Assembly since 1946. In 1966, the General Assembly terminated South Africa's Mandate over Namibia and resolved that the United Nations must discharge the responsibilities with respect to the Territory. A year later the United Nations Council for Namibia was established to administer the Territory until independence.

With the heralding of independence for Namibia, the Council has fulfilled its Mandate. The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) congratulates the Council on the remarkable manner in which it performed its important responsibilities of upholding the legitimate aspirations of the people of Namibia; safeguarding their legal, moral, material and political interests; and as a

catalytic factor in mobilizing and ensuring international support for the cause of Namibia.

I would also like to congratulate the United Nations Secretary-General for his constant efforts to ensure the smooth implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia. The efficient manner in which the transition of Namibia to independence was effected does great credit to the United Nations and has, indeed, renewed the confidence of the international community to the efficacy of this vital instrument for multilateral co-operation.

OIC participated actively in all the efforts undertaken by the United Nations to ensure independence for Namibia. The OIC Committee on Namibia closely co-ordinated the position of the Islamic States at the United Nations General Assembly. OIC member States also lent their full moral and material support to the freedom struggle.

As the people of Namibia set out to fashion their own destiny, in accordance with their wishes, in their free land, they would require the good wishes and assistance from the international community. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to assure Mr. Sam Nujoma, President of Namibia, of the solidarity and the support of the OIC member States for the Government and the people of Namibia in their efforts to reconstruct their country and to achieve progress and prosperity.

I would also like to avail myself of this opportunity to affirm, once again, the solidarity and support of OIC with the struggling people of South Africa against racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. The international community, particularly the United Nations, must renew its efforts with redoubled vigour to ensure the ushering in South Africa of a free, multi-racial democratic society with a political and social order based on egalitarian principles.

4. Director-General of the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute

[Original: English]

The Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI) takes this opportunity to reiterate the importance of these meetings in the light of recent developments in Namibia. The United Nations Council for Namibia has played a historic role on behalf of the United Nations and the international community in mobilizing support and assistance for Namibia prior to its well deserved independence. ESAMI was honoured by the Council when it acceeded to membership of ESAMI in order to link Namibians closely with a major regional organization mandated to promote management capabilities of people, programmes and institutions in countries of eastern and southern Africa. Personally, I was associated with the Council when I served as Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 1977 to 1981. I therefore enjoin you the current members at this historic meeting at Windhoek following the successful implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

Operationally, ESAMI has been involved with earlier international conferences and workshops both in Vienna and at Rio de Janiero, Brazil, in planning strategies for Namibia. We would like to express continued willingness and readiness on our part to be involved in implementing these plans, especially those aimed at management development programming to enhance the managerial capacity of the new nation of Namibia. We have done it for Namibia prior to independence; we are ready to continue doing it now at even more advanced levels. In this regard, ESAMI is planning to send a high-powered delegation led by its Director-General to Namibia during the second week of May to explore specific management development roles that ESAMI can play now and in the future.

We wish you every success in your deliberations at the meetings that are taking place this week in Namibia.

Notes

1/ A/44/24/Add.1. To be issued in conjunction with A/44/24 as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 24 (A/44/24).